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Tom Cruise likes to get into a character's skin

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Volume 2, No. 130 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2004

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Army career spans two nations

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PHOTO BY ENES DULAMI, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIX/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Adin Salkanovic, 24, has been a soldier since he was 14. He joined the Bosnian army to fight Serb forces that had surrounded his hometown of Sarajevo, quitting only after his father was wounded in action. After a move to the United States, Salkanovic joined the Army. He is now a scout based at Camp Grey Wolf in Baghdad's International Zone. He finds the U.S. Army quite different from the Bosnian army. "As far as training, discipline and equipment ... you can't compare it," he said.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Detained professor: A Georgia Tech professor detained by Chinese authorities who accused him of spying said Monday that China's actions were "punishment for his noncooperation."

Fei-Ling Wang said his arrest in July was an example of "persecution by suspicion" but would not elaborate. He said at some point he will "tell the world what really happened, but right now, I'd just say that the charges are totally fabricated."

Wang, an American citizen, was detained in China for two weeks and released Aug. 8, when he returned to the United States.

Rudolph verdict: The Alabama Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling that accused serial bomber Eric Robert Rudolph must pay \$115 million to a nurse injured in a 1998 blast at a Birmingham abortion clinic.

Rudolph had asked the Supreme Court to overturn the ruling of Jefferson County Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee, claiming he wasn't properly served with the lawsuit filed in 2000 by nurse Emily Lyons and her husband, Jeff.

Peterson case: On audio tapes secretly recorded by Amber Frey, Scott Peterson endures harsh questioning from his one-time mistress and denies any involvement in his wife's disappearance.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi said last week that the tapes would continue to be used through Tuesday morning. Defense attorneys said they expected to begin their cross-examination of Frey by Tuesday.

Michael Jackson accusations: Santa Barbara District Attorney Tom Snedden underwent public interrogation from Michael Jackson's lead attorney, Thomas Mesereau Jr. Monday.

Attorneys for Jackson said Santa Barbara officials illegally raided the office of a Beverly Hills private investigator who worked for Mark Geragos, one of Jackson's former attorneys. They argued that the search last November violated the confidentiality between attorney and client, making videotapes and other seized materials inadmissible in court. Monday's hearing was to decide whether this evidence would be allowed at trial.

Asian bird flu: The National Institutes of Health awarded Chiron Corporation a contract to develop up to 40,000 doses of vaccine against H9N2 avian influenza, a type of bird flu that is less lethal but more widespread than the strain that killed 27 this year in Asia.

Chiron will manufacture the H9N2 vaccine in Siena, Italy, using an inactivated strain of the virus provided by the Centers for Disease Control. The Emeryville,



EFE, JUANJO MARTIN/AP

Spanish troops in Afghanistan: A group of Spanish soldiers joke before boarding a transport airplane at an air base in Getafe, Spain, on Tuesday. Seventy Spanish army and air force soldiers flew to Afghanistan as part of the first contingent of a Spanish government pledge to temporarily boost its troops there to more than 1,000.

Calif.-based company will manufacture up to 40,000 doses of the vaccine.

witnesses said.

World

Chavez victory: President Hugo Chavez's overwhelming victory in a recall referendum has left the opposition reeling, with some calling for protests and others for calm and a recount.

Chavez won 58 percent of the historic vote Sunday, not only surviving the effort to oust him but converting one of the biggest challenges of his presidency into an even broader mandate to carry on his "revolution for the poor" in his second term which ends in January 2007.

Congo unrest: Burundi and Rwanda warned on Tuesday that they might send troops into neighboring Congo if that country fails to disarm militias responsible for massacring more than 160 Congolese refugees at a U.N. camp in Burundi — threats that could re-ignite a regional conflict in this corner of Africa.

The Burundian army was prepared to cross the border into Congo to pursue the Hutu rebels responsible for Friday's attack, Brig. Gen. Germain Niyoyankana, the head of the Burundian army, said Tuesday. The rebels launched their assault from Congo,

Bali bombings: The mastermind of the 2002 Bali bombings threatened Tuesday to kill U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon if he ever gets out of jail, where he is waiting to be executed for his role in the attacks that killed 202 people.

Imam Samudra made the comments as six militants jailed over the nightclub bombings had their sentences cut by two months in traditional pardons to mark independence day, authorities said.

Samudra's sentence was not affected.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo review panels: A U.S. military review panel on Monday heard the case of a Guantanamo prisoner accused of training with a militant Islamic group, officials said.

The man, whose name and nationality were not released, has been held at the U.S. base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for about two years, said military spokeswoman, Navy Cmdr. Becci Brenton.

The man did not call any witnesses. Details of the detainee's testimony weren't available, nor was the recommendation of the three-member tribunal. There were no journalists present.

Correction

A story in Monday's editions about World War II vets who were honored at a ceremony in France contained incorrect information. Ten U.S. veterans were awarded the French Legion of Honor on Saturday in Draguignan, France.

Messages of Support

★ I wanted to say hi to an army friend of mine who is at Camp Cook, so if you could get this in your paper, I'd greatly appreciate it!

To A. Schiller "Schiller Man" US Army - Camp Cook

are here in Balad and wonder how you are doing. Take care, be safe & know you & your family are in our thoughts - SrA McBrearty & SSgt Bobenmoyer "The NMANG sisters" Thank You

Just wanted you to know that Steph & I

**Comics, horoscopes
and advice — every day
in Stars and Stripes**

★ You just left and we are all praying for your safe return. Don't forget you have a big support group that loves you very much, and who are very proud of you. Love, Amanda



A U.S. Army sniper holds his position Tuesday in a building close to the cemetery in the besieged holy city of Najaf, Iraq. The deadly showdown in Najaf has dominated Iraq's national conference, with 60 delegates sent to persuade a radical Shiite cleric to call off his fighters.

Iraqi delegation presents peace proposal in Najaf

Baghdad mortar attack kills seven, wounds 47

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi delegation presented a peace proposal Tuesday to followers of a militant Shiite cleric who have been fighting U.S. and Iraqi forces in Najaf, as a U.S. warplane bombed a suspected militia position in the holy city's vast cemetery.

The mission was forced to wait for three hours at the Imam Ali Shrine, where Muqtada al-Sadr's fighters have holed up, but were never allowed to meet with the cleric. Al-Sadr's aides said the cleric did not show because of the continued U.S. attacks.

The peace mission had been organized by the Iraqi National Conference, a gathering of more than 1,000 religious, political and civic leader that was extended late Tuesday for a fourth day because of disagreements over how to elect a national council that is to act as a watchdog body over the interim government.

Several miles away, a mortar round slammed into a busy Baghdad commercial district, killing seven people and wounding 47 others, officials said.

The blast shattered the front of a barbershop on al-Rasheed

street, leaving blood mixed with glass and shrapnel on the road. Firefighters were hosing charred cars, their windshields smashed.

The mortar was not aimed at the conference but rather was a routine attack intended "to create chaos in the country," said Sabah Kadhim, spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

In eastern Baghdad, insurgents waged a series of attacks on U.S. troops with rocket-propelled grenades and bombs Monday, killing one U.S. soldier and wounding several others, the military announced Tuesday.

The renewed fighting in Najaf between al-Sadr's militia and U.S. and Iraqi forces began Aug. 5 after the breakdown of a two-month cease-fire.

The fighting, especially near the holy Imam Ali Shrine, has angered many among the country's majority Shiite population and cast a pall over the National Conference, which had been intended to project an image of unity and impress on the road to democracy.

Clashes persisted even after the conference's eight-member peace delegation — seven of them

Shiites — arrived in Najaf aboard a pair of U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters Tuesday afternoon armed with a peace proposal collected by convention delegates.

A U.S. warplane dropped a bomb Tuesday afternoon on the city's sprawling cemetery, site of recent clashes between U.S. forces and Shiite militants. U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Thomas V. Johnson said the military fired "one precision guided missile on a building in the cemetery where Muqtada militiamen with RPGs were attacking U.S. soldiers."

The delegation's peace initiative demanded al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia put down its arms, leave the revered Imam Ali Shrine where it is holed up and become a political group in exchange for amnesty.

Delegation head Hussein al-Sadr, a distant relative of the cleric, said they got a positive feeling from members of al-Sadr's staff.

Also Tuesday, an unmanned U.S. reconnaissance plane crashed the military said. The plane was not known to have caused the U.S. Air Force MQ-1 Predator plane to crash near a U.S. base in Balad, 50 miles north of the capital.

Army to withhold 15 percent from Halliburton payments

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The U.S. Army will begin withholding 15 percent of its payments on Halliburton Co.'s future invoices for logistical support of troops in Iraq and Kuwait, the oil services conglomerate said Tuesday.

Halliburton reversed its announcement Monday that the Army Materiel Command had given the company more time to explain and account for its costs before implementing a clause in a contract allowing withholding of payments. Halliburton said that on Monday the company understood that the extension, which expired Sunday, would remain in effect "based on clear oral assurances from senior Pentagon representatives."

Halliburton said Tuesday the company had learned that the Army Materiel Command had refused to grant a third extension before implementing the clause, which allows the government to withhold 15 percent of payments until contractors prove their costs.

Linda Theis, a spokeswoman for the Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Ill., didn't immediately return a call for comment Tuesday.

Halliburton has been awarded more than \$6 billion in contracts related to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, but the company has been under fire for allegedly overcharging the government. Halliburton says it is a political target, denies wrongdoing and disputes whether the withhold is legally justified.

The Army Materiel Command "feels this is a stan-

dard part of the contract and this is not being imposed as a penalty or lack of progress" on substantiating costs, spokeswoman Wendy Hall said in an e-mail message.

The withhold affects Halliburton's LOGCAP III contract with the Army to provide logistical support for troops — meal service, laundry, mail and housing.

Halliburton said KBR, its engineering and construction arm that performs much of its government contract work, will offset the loss by withholding 15 percent from payments to subcontractors.

"At the end of the day, we do not expect this will have a significant or sustained impact on liquidity," Halliburton finance chief Chris Gaut said.

Halliburton similarly disputes withholding of 15 percent of payments on its contracts with the Army Corps of Engineers.

neers to fight oil well fires and rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure. The company said Tuesday it expects to ask for a "judicial determination" on whether the withhold applies to the contracts.

Hall said it "has not been determined" whether or with whom the claim will be filed.

"Halliburton is confident that the government action is not justified and expects that its legal arguments will be upheld in litigation," the company said.

Halliburton shares fell 98 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$26.81 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 935 U.S. service-members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 697 died as a result of hostile action and 238 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 63 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 797 U.S. troops have died — 588 as a result of hostile action and 209 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three soldiers with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit were killed Sunday in Najaf province.

■ A soldier was killed Sunday on an explosion in northern Baghdad.

■ A Marine was killed Sunday in Anbar province, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas B. Morrison, 23, Carlisle, Pa.; killed Friday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army 1st Lt. Neil Anthony Santoriello, 24, Verona, Pa.; killed Friday when an explosive detonated near his patrol vehicle in Khadiyeh, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan.

■ Army Pfc. Brandon R. Sapp, 21, Lake Worth, Fla.; killed Sunday when his Bradley fighting vehicle hit an explosive in Najaf, Iraq; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. Daniel Michael Shepherd, 23, Elyria, Ohio; killed Sunday when his Bradley fighting vehicle hit an explosive in Ar Ramahi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, Fort Riley, Kan.

Two Marines killed last Wednesday in a helicopter crash in Anbar province, Iraq.

■ Marine Staff Sgt. John R. Howard, 26, Covington, Va.; assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Tavon L. Hubbard, 24, Reston, Va.; assigned to the Command Element, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Bosnian soldier as child, now in U.S. Army

Staff sergeant fought against Serbs at 14

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

Everything about Staff Sgt. Adin Salkanovic says soldier.

His clear, deliberate speech, close-cropped hair and serious demeanor give him an air of authority usually reserved for those with a lifetime of military experience, not five years of U.S. Army service.

Those five years don't tell the whole story, though.

When he was only 14, Salkanovic spent a year in the Bosnian army, fighting Serbian forces that surrounded his hometown of Sarajevo for 3½ years between 1992 and 1995.

"I volunteered many times but because of my age they said, 'no,'" said Salkanovic, 24, who now serves as a scout with Troop F, 9th Cavalry, in Baghdad. "But I kept volunteering, I was one of those guys who wanted to see some action."

Finally, the army relented and Salkanovic became a soldier, first proving himself by working with radios or carrying ammunition. After a few months he moved to the front lines, which were less than 1½ miles from his home.

"It was World War I-style fighting, trench warfare," he said. "There were a lot of mortar attacks, howitzers and tanks—a lot of armor got involved. Both sides took a lot of casualties from the minefields and snipers."

After about a year of fighting, Salkanovic's father was wounded in battle.

"I kind of quit after my dad was injured," he said. "I had to take care of my family. I had volunteered in the first place and they understood that I could walk out at any time because of my age."

Salkanovic was the middle of three children and the oldest son, so it fell on him to provide for the family. He ran the household for two years until the family emigrated to the United States in 1995 to get medical help for his sister, who had a severe case of scoliosis.

Salkanovic's family settled in San Jose, Calif., and while his sister received medical treatment, he attended school.

"I was lost for three months," he said. Neither he nor his siblings spoke English. "I would guess what they were saying from one or two words and piece it together. After three months we all kind of felt comfortable speaking English."

Once his sister's two surgeries were complete, Salkanovic's family decided to move back to Sarajevo, then part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 1997.

"I told my dad I wasn't going to stay," Salkanovic said. He returned to San Jose, working construction jobs until he finished high school.

"As soon as I got my high school diploma I joined the Army," he said. "I thought I would enjoy it."

He said the Army gave him no special consideration for his time as a child soldier. He still had to go through basic training.

And he found the U.S. Army quite different from the Bosnian army.



Staff Sgt. Adin Salkanovic

"As far as training, discipline and equipment... you can't compare it," he said. The Bosnian army "was a regular army, just lacking in uniformity. Every battalion had their own uniform and standards."

In 2001, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, deploying twice to Kuwait right before and right after Sept. 11, 2001. When Troop F was created, Salkanovic joined the unit, which is now deployed to Camp Grey Wolf in the International Zone. Salkanovic's history as a child soldier followed him into the unit, but he doesn't tell many war stories.

"He doesn't talk about it unless you ask," said Troop F 1st Sgt. Kirby Carter. "Guys who've seen bad stuff don't talk about it. If they talk about it, they've usually had to embellish it."

Carter said that Salkanovic doesn't tell stories about combat, but shares his past combat experience in other ways.

"He's a real good leader," Carter said. "When he gets out of the gate, he flips a switch and he's ready for combat."

"He knows a lot," said Pfc. Joseph Stark, who is part of his scout squad. "It helps. I'd rather go out with someone who's been in combat before."

Carter said that Salkanovic's squad has seen some serious combat in its nearly six months in Iraq.

Shortly after its arrival, the squad fought through a 4½-mile long coordinated ambush in Abu Ghraib and manned the Baghdad International Airport perimeter when it came under attack, later clearing the buildings that had housed the enemy fighters.

"It just clicked over the first time we got engaged," said Salkanovic about returning to combat. "It's just like riding a bicycle."

"Anyone who fought in a war at 14 will be more mature than your average young sergeant," Carter said. "We got a lot of young NCOs who came as specialists or young sergeants and grew into real good staff sergeants and will be the future of the NCO corps."

Salkanovic said he hopes to make the U.S. Army a cavalry.

"I've picked a job I like, and it fits my capabilities and personality," he said.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.strips.com

Strikeforce drivers promise safety to their passengers

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait—The 8th Army boxing champion and three tough bombers share the responsibility of keeping 2nd Infantry Division leaders safe on the roads of Iraq during a year-long deployment.

The four are drivers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and work for brigade commander Col. Gary S. Patton, deputy commander Lt. Col. Thomas Graves, executive officer Lt. Col. Bob Bialek, and Brigade Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean.

All are expert infantrymen and double as bodyguards for the leaders in Strikeforce.

Dean's driver, Sgt. James Coombs, is one of the largest men in the brigade and the 8th Army boxing champion. Sgt. Rigoberto Tovar, who drives for the deputy commander, competed in the Golden Gloves amateur boxing competition.

Before he left South Korea, Coombs promised all 2D ID sergeants major that Dean would come home safely, he said. The other drivers are just as determined to do the same for the leaders they protect, they said.

The group rates itself as the best and safest wheeled in the brigade.

"We can go anywhere," Coombs said. "Between us, we have probably killed more accident-free miles in Korea. You know how dangerous the roads in Korea can be," Coombs said.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

From left, Strikeforce drivers Sgt. Ray Gonzales, Sgt. Rigoberto Tovar, Sgt. Joe Ramos and Sgt. James Coombs relax at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The four are drivers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and work for brigade commander Col. Gary S. Patton, deputy commander Lt. Col. Thomas Graves, executive officer Lt. Col. Bob Bialek and Brigade Sgt. Maj. Marvell Dean.

The drivers are quick to point out that their jobs involve more than just driving and acting as bodyguards.

Sgt. Ray Gonzales, an accomplished dancer, has helped take care of Bialek's children and pets, picked up dry cleaning and sold Girl Scout cookies as part of his job.

"People think you just drive, but we have to take care of them [the leaders] first before we can

take care of our own stuff," said Sgt. Joe Ramos, who drives for Patton.

Drivers have to be trustworthy, Coombs said.

"Sergeant Major Dean is involved in the Sergeant Majors' Association. We had a Christmas card sale, and I had to distribute and collect the money for all the cards. I had about \$20,000 in cash go through my hands," he said.

The group also gets to see a dif-

ferent side to the brigade leaders that front line soldiers don't, they said.

Coombs' work with the association has exposed him to the lighter side of sergeant majors, he said.

"They are known for making spot corrections and being in people's butt constantly. I get to see them when they let their hair down. When they have a farewell they cut loose. They are people

too," he said.

The drivers rate Dean the hardest taskmaster of the brigade leaders.

"When it comes to paperwork, this dude is so meticulous it is ridiculous. He thinks of every little detail," Coombs said.

Bialek likes to get an answer to his questions immediately, Gonzales said.

"He says, 'cricket, cricket' if people don't answer his questions right away," he said.

Graves is a fitness fanatic, said Tovar, the newest on the job.

"He's always running 10 miles, swimming five miles and riding his bike about 10 miles. He always says [physical training] is not enough," he said.

Patton likes to make sure things get done right, Ramos said.

The small band of drivers, find themselves always together, working or waiting for the next assignment. Back in South Korea they drank together at the Pan-Korea Club in Tongducheon.

The three Hispanic drivers, all members of La Gema, a Hispanic fraternity, are teaching Coombs about Mexican culture, they said.

On a typical day in Kuwait, where the Strikeforce is preparing for its Iraq mission, the drivers could find themselves running errands for their boss around Camp Buehring or heading to Port Shuaiba to check on the movement of equipment.

They know that more dangerous challenges await them in Iraq but remain determined to make sure they can return safely.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsp@strips.com

Some see opportunity in troop move plans

But other German hosts upset about economic impact

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — As the lord mayor of this historic German city addressed reporters Tuesday afternoon, hundreds of his constituents could be heard in the plaza below having a good wine or two.

President Bush's proposal to withdraw tens of thousands of troops from Europe over the next decade isn't sitting well with the German populace. Money and good memories are two of the reasons why many Germans are a bit apprehensive about the whole issue.

The residents of Wiesbaden have good reason to worry: It's the home base of the legendary 1st Armored Division, and about 12,000 Americans annually pump millions of dollars into the local economy. They also genuinely like Americans, often referring to them as "our good neighbors."

"We do not believe the Americans will give up Wiesbaden," Lord Mayor Hildebrand Diehl said through an interpreter after his news conference.

As he went on to explain his optimism, sounds and smells from the city's wine festival wafted up from the cobblestone streets



KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden Lord Mayor Hildebrand Diehl speaks to reporters Tuesday about President Bush's proposal to redeploy thousands of U.S. troops from Germany to the United States over the next decade, thought to include the 1st Armored Division, headquartered in Wiesbaden. Diehl was upbeat despite Bush's plan. "If the 1st Armored Division does leave Wiesbaden, other units or troops might come" to take their place, he said.

below. Several GIs in civvies — spotted earlier — contributed to the atmosphere.

"If the 1st Armored Division does leave Wiesbaden," Diehl said, "other units or troops might come" to take their place.

The U.S. Army is spending about \$45 million on various improvement projects, he said. And,

perhaps more importantly, the military airfield on the outskirts of town is not something the Americans can easily replicate, at least not in Germany, he added.

However, while Diehl is feeling good about his city's chances, officials in other German cities aren't so confident.

"We've had American soldiers

in Biedingen for 60 years," Mayor Erich Spanner said. The decision "is a break" from the past, he added, "I'm not happy about it."

In German towns with U.S. military bases, talk of closures and empty caserns is nothing new. Those that host 1st AD and 1st Infantry Division units have been dealing with this issue for

months, if not years.

Among the communities contacted, not one seemed eager to see the troops go.

Ole Kruse, a spokesman for the district government in Würzburg, where the 1st Infantry Division is headquartered, said local leaders had been hoping for more specifics. The Würzburg district is home to three bases: Leighton Barracks, home of the 1st ID, Faulenberg Casern, headquarters of the 98th Area Support Group, and Giebelstadt Army Airfield, where the 12th Aviation Brigade and the 69th Air Defense Artillery are located.

"It's important that we really know definitely how the plans are, so we can adapt to the situation," Kruse said.

Kruse added that the district government has not made plans for the military sites, which the U.S. military, technically speaking, leases from the German government. There are some ideas, Kruse noted, but he emphasized that no one wants the U.S. Army to leave.

"We hope that as many soldiers as possible will stay, if they can," Kruse said. "The Americans here in Würzburg have a very long tradition. They are part of our community."

The picture is somewhat clearer for communities that host U.S. Air Force bases.

Engels, for example, is home to about 12,000 active-duty military members, spread across about 10 installations. The largest

SEE HOSTS ON PAGE 6

Critics: Politics, not practicality, prompted decision

From wire reports

President Bush's announcement that he plans to move 60,000 to 70,000 troops from Cold War-era hot spots back home and to regions of potential threat has provoked both support and derision from politicians and analysts in the United States.

"The world has changed a great deal, and our posture must change with it, for the sake of our military families, for the sake of our taxpayers, and so we can be more effective at projecting our strength and spreading freedom and peace," Bush said Monday.

The president's proposal ran into immediate criticism from retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, who is supporting Bush's Democratic rival, Sen. John Kerry. Clark said Bush's proposal made little strategic sense for conducting a global war on terrorism, and he said the plan would "significantly undermine" U.S. national security.

"As we face a global war on terror with al-Qaida active in more than 60 countries, now is not the time to pull back our forces," Clark said. "I question why President Bush would want to do this now," Clark said.



Clark

This ill-conceived move and its timing seem politically motivated," Richard C. Holbrooke, a Kerry foreign policy adviser and former U.N. ambassa-

'Now is not the time to pull back our forces,' says Clark

dor under President Clinton, said on CNN that the plan is a further unilateral step toward disengagement from traditional allies whom Democrats maintain Bush already has alienated.

"This is a major step away from strong alliances," Holbrooke said.

"This is another example of the administration's unilateralism. It's going to weaken our national security. It is not going to save us money. It will cost billions of dollars to bring these troops home. It's a mistake, driven by the fact that we're stretched too thin in Iraq and the presidential election."

The political value in all these proposals, one Bush strategist said, is that they portray the president as "an agent of change," willing to rethink fundamental assumptions. By contrast, they argue, Kerry's hostility to the idea paints him as wedded to obsolete assumptions.

"This is about modernization of defenses, and pursuing transformational change while Democrats are defenders of a pre-9/11 status quo," the GOP strategist said.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in a report in May that greatly reducing the U.S. presence overseas could save more than \$1 billion a year but could

cost nearly \$7 billion upfront.

"Restoration Army forces would produce, at best, only small improvements in the United States' ability to respond to far-flung conflicts," the CBO said.

Germany, where many American forces were stationed during the Cold War as a bulwark against the Soviet Union, would continue to see a "large number of military forces and their families," one administration aide said.

But U.S. troop strength in South Korea, where American forces have been stationed for more than a half-century, would be reduced from its current level of 37,000. Troop strength in Japan, now about 40,000, also would be cut.

Administration officials stressed Monday that the redeployment plan was devised after three years of discussion that included key allies.

Top U.S. military officers throughout the world had a say about where, and how many troops would remain abroad, administration officials said.

Pentagon officials, speaking on a condi-

"As we face a global war on terror with al-Qaida active in more than 60 countries, now is not the time to pull back our forces, and I question why President Bush would want to do this now."

Wesley Clark
retired Army general

tion of anonymity, said the 1st Armored and the 1st Infantry would make up the bulk of returning forces. More forces will be drawn home from posts in Asia. At the same time, a brigade — about 3,000 to 5,000 troops — would be moved into Germany.

The redeployments would begin in 2006, the Pentagon officials said, and continue for several years.

Some analysts say the redeployments should have occurred in the early 1990s, after the Soviet Union's collapse. They say the strain of continuing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and not a dramatic change in military strategy, prompted the change.

"This is a way overdue," said retired Army Col. Douglas Macgregor, who retired in June after writing several books that call for repositioning ground forces. "It would have been better had this happened as consequence of strategic thinking and analysis."

"Unfortunately, that's not the case. This is happening because we are under enormous pressure, especially the ground forces."



Well, you know they always talk about no threat. There is always a threat. Look where we are now. I think it is political, why they are pulling them out.

Bob Crockett
Wiesbaden, Germany

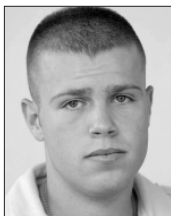


They move you around from left to right. They have invested a lot of money here and then leave. But I am sure someone is calling the shots and doing the right thing.

Eddie Karakas
Wiesbaden, Germany

We've got ground here. It probably would be best that we stayed here.

Spc. John Harris
Tennessee National Guard



I think they should take most of them out. Everywhere you go, you see U.S. bases.

Pfc. Kenneth Ventris
Heidelberg, Germany



It's going to hit the economy hard here. It's one of the benefits of being in the military, coming to Europe. Sorry to see it go.

Sgt. Nathan Lock
Hanau, Germany

I know it would probably hurt the German economy if troops leave (Europe) because we have been here so long and they have grown dependent. But, it's got to happen sometime.

Staff Sgt. Camisa Mitchell
Heidelberg, Germany



The people are already away from their families as it is. I like it here and the opportunity to live in Germany.

Lourdes Pennill
Heidelberg, Germany



It will be a while before it happens, but, yeah, if you want to. Really the troops don't have to be here anymore.

Randall Bell
Wiesbaden, Germany



The handwriting was on the wall that they were going to do it. They talked about it for years. I hope they don't do it too fast. How are they going to transfer the families home? Will they have the infrastructure?

Sgt. Maj. Edward Massey
Wiesbaden, Germany



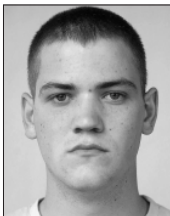
From a family standpoint, a lot of people will probably be happy. They're still closer to what they call home and can see their relatives. I think moving the troops back would be beneficial.

Maj. Keith Stubbs
16th Military Police Brigade



Close down the bases and something happens. It is a destabilizing thing. If the Germans don't want us, by all means we should leave. Maybe we have overstayed our welcome.

Jack Levett
Bingen, Germany



There would be a large decline in terrorist threats. A lot of the Germans would be happy; the country is overpopulated as it is.

Spc. Nicholas Oswalt
Tennessee National Guard

Hosts: German communities see chance to change minds

HOSTS, FROM PAGE 5

of them — RAF Mildenhall, home of the 100th Air Refueling Wing, and RAF Lakenheath, home of the 48th Fighter Wing — are in the rural region of eastern England.

If the bases leave, the regional employment picture would be jumbled, but the local government has indicated in the past that it would try to attract replacement jobs.

On the other hand, Pentagon officials have said the military community around Ramstein Air Base, Germany, home to 44,000 servicemembers, family members and civilians will remain a crucial logistics and medical hub.

The community, located near the city of Kaiserslautern, is host to the largest number of Americans outside the United States.

The status of the area's Army population — about 4,800 troops and 6,500 dependents — hasn't been specified. A spokesman for the 21st Theater Support Command, which provides logistical support to the U.S. European Command, on Monday referred questions about potential troop realignments to the Pentagon.

While Kaiserslautern is in no way typical, given its size, a look at the economic side of the ledger reveals, at least in part, what's at stake.

In fiscal 2003, the Kaiserslautern mili-

tary community pumped nearly \$1.29 billion into the area's economy, according to an annual economic impact report released in February.

The Kaiserslautern military community includes five Air Force installations and 10 Army installations.

The status of other bases within U.S. Air Forces in Europe, which has five main installations in Europe, is unclear.

Prior news reports have indicated that fighter wings in Germany and England may be moved. USAFE spokeswoman 1st Lt. Toni Tones noted, however, the Air Force has significantly drawn down its numbers in the past decade and there is little more room to cut.

In the coming months and years, local officials in Germany and England will no doubt make such claims.

In Giessen, Germany, which has already been identified for closure, city officials view the recent announcement as a second chance to change minds.

As mayoral spokesman Christoph Zörb spoke of the prospect of getting a reprieve for Giessen, he invoked a phrase by baseball great Yogi Berra, which shows just how deep the ties are in Europe.

"We won't give up," Zörb said. "It's not over until it's over."

Marni McEntire, Ron Jensen and Steve Liewer contributed to this report.
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Specialist LaAndrea LaMarque, 54B Chemical Specialist, U.S. Army Reserve

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KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Col. Kevin Owens, commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, reviews soldiers as they march past him during a change-of-command ceremony in June at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. While there is talk of troops moving out of Europe by the thousands, most officials expect Army numbers to grow in northern Italy.

Little said about future of U.S. troops in Italy

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — American troops may eventually leave Germany by the thousands, but south of the Alps, that doesn't appear to be the case. President Bush didn't specifically mention forces in Italy during his speech Monday, during which he said that more than 70,000 troops would be pulled out of Europe in the next decade.

In fact, the only recent announcement regarding troop strength in Italy came in late July. A Pentagon statement indicated the 173rd Airborne Brigade would essentially double in size, adding 2,000 troops over the next few years.

The brief announcement said there would be more troops. But it was short on specifics, and SETAF isn't ready to add any more.

"That is two years away from being reality," said Sgt. Maj. Larry Lane, a public affairs officer. "So there is a lot of planning to do. Especially in terms of space issues and where [soldiers] will be housed and where they work."

Vicenza's Caserma Ederle, where both the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) and the 173rd are based, doesn't appear to have the space to handle such numbers. So a range of possibilities — including using other facilities around Vicenza or in other cities — might be possible.

"None of that has been decided yet," Lane said. "The move would continue a trend from the 173rd, the main fighting component of SETAF. The brigade was reactivated in June 2000. The 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment was activated in January 2002, joining the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment.

The mayor and vice mayor of the commune of Vicenza couldn't be reached for comment Tuesday. They're among the millions of Italians on vacation in August.

An employee in the Italian Ministry of Defense said questions must be submitted in writing and indicated answers would not be available by Stripes' deadline.

While the Army may have plans to grow in Italy, the other services aren't ready to talk about their communities.

Capt. Gordon Hume, a Navy spokesman in London, said the service is engaged in continuous talks with its European allies on such matters. But he said he couldn't talk specifics on sizable Navy communities in Naples and Sigonella, Sicily.

Aviano, the site of one of the military's largest ongoing construction projects, rarely has been mentioned by officials talking about transformation in Europe. But it's the established transit point for the SETAF paratroopers, as well as the home of two F-16 fighter squadrons.

The base once housed planes from other NATO air forces in addition to the 555th and 510th fighter squadrons. But there's been no word on whether additional planes or airmen might be sent to northeastern Italy. "We haven't studied this option," said Brig. Gen. Philip Breedlove. "But if the president tells us that we'll be taking on another fighter squadron, the men and women of the 31st Fighter Wing will make it happen."

Breedlove said some infrastructure changes would be needed and the base's Italian hosts also would have to OK a series of other measures to make it viable.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.strips.esd.mil

German official: Troop pullout is 'a serious loss'

BY GEIR MOULSON
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's defense minister expressed regret Tuesday about U.S. plans to restructure its forces abroad — changes expected to hit Germany the hardest with the pullout of two heavy divisions. Japan and Australia embraced the changes.

The plan, outlined Monday by President Bush, would bring up to 70,000 troops back to the United States from western Europe and Asia within a decade. It is part of a military realignment meant to confront post-Cold War threats such as Islamic terrorism.

Though the withdrawal will be spread over years, areas of southern and western Germany with U.S. bases will feel a sharp economic impact, including the likely loss of tens of thousands of local jobs. Germany is home to some 70,000 U.S. soldiers, the bulk of the American military presence in Europe.

"I regret this very much," German Defense Minister Peter Struck told reporters during a visit to troops in northern Germany.

"This is a serious loss for those regions."

U.S. defense officials said the two German-based divisions, the 1st Armored and the 1st Infantry, would be withdrawn under the plan.

German commentators and officials viewed the changes as the closing of a historic chapter that saw American troops arrive as occupiers at the end of World War II and stay as protectors against a Soviet invasion on the Cold War's front line.

In Japan and South Korea, however, officials said they did not expect major fallout from Bush's announcement. The United States bases some 50,000 troops in Japan and another 37,000 in South Korea, where they counter North Korea's large military.

"I don't think there will be big changes for us," South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon told reporters. Washington already disclosed earlier this year plans to cut a third of its forces in the country.

Japan and Australia both applauded the review of U.S. forces. A Japanese Foreign Ministry

statement said it "will better suit the global security environment and further contribute to peace and security."

"While the number of U.S. forces deployed around the world may reduce, the review is designed to develop a force that is better able to respond to a wider range of contingencies," said Australia's defense minister, Robert Hill.

Major shifts would not begin before 2006 under the plan, which would see the United States close scores of installations in Europe and consolidate forces at larger bases. More than 200,000 U.S. troops are currently stationed overseas.

In Germany, the Foreign Ministry's top official for relations with Washington also signaled agreement to the aims of the U.S. review, arguing that "Europe's security is not in danger."

But Karsten Voigt added that the waning U.S. presence in Germany underlines the need to adapt trans-Atlantic relations to a changing world.

"What is important is that we no longer approach the trans-Atlantic alliance from the viewpoint of measures of what we did together in the Cold War, but that we instead cultivate and renew it in view of the new risks and dangers that now arise from outside Europe to the trans-Atlantic community," Voigt told Deutschlandfunk radio.

German-U.S. ties were strained by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's vehement opposition to last year's U.S.-led war in Iraq. The two governments have since moved to repair relations, with Schroeder offering help in efforts to rebuild Iraq.

Bild, Germany's most-read daily, suggested that Germany's opposition to the war in Iraq was a factor in the U.S. decision — though both governments deny that.

"Germany as an ally is no longer what it was," the paper said in an editorial Tuesday. "It's also the anti-Americanism that set the wheels in motion."

But another daily, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, said the withdrawal "strategically has little to do with a U.S. administration wish to pay back the Germans for their unusual contrariness."

Russia not alarmed by military realignment plans

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday that Moscow sees no grounds for concern in a planned redeployment of U.S. forces that would increase their presence on the territory of former Soviet allies.

Pentagon officials said Monday that the restructuring plan announced by Presi-

dent Bush would close scores of Cold War-era U.S. military bases in Europe while increasing the U.S. presence at bases in countries such as Poland, Romania and the ex-Soviet republic of Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

"I don't see anything alarming in these plans yet," Ivanov said in televised comments. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld briefed him about the plan during

their weekend meeting in St. Petersburg.

Ivanov said the United States had "objective reasons" for the shift. He said that Russia, like the United States, is trying to streamline its military and increase its mobility.

U.S.-Russian relations were bolstered by Russian President Vladimir Putin's support for the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, which involved his blessing for the U.S. deployment in ex-Soviet Central Asia to

support the anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan. Some Russian military officials and diplomats, however, later voiced irritation over the U.S. presence.

In an effort to bolster its waning presence in strategically located, resource-rich Central Asia, Russia recently has set up an air base in Kyrgyzstan, another ex-Soviet republic in the region that hosts U.S. and other coalition troops.

Shalikhshvili improving

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — The condition of retired Army Gen. John Shalikhshvili, who chaired the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Clinton administration, has been upgraded from guarded to serious but stable.

Madison Army Medical Center spokesman Mike Meines said Monday the change indicates Shalikhshvili's condition has improved. He said he was barred by privacy rules from providing further details.

Shalikhshvili, 68, was hospitalized Aug. 7. Friends have said he suffered a brain hemorrhage.

Sailor dies on beach

GAETA, Italy — A U.S. sailor assigned to Naval Support Activity, Gaeta, collapsed and died while running along a beach Monday evening, according to a news release from Commander, Navy Region Europe.

The sailor, who worked for the command's security department, was at San Agostino Beach in Gaeta attending a departmental function with family members, the release said.

He went for a run prior to the start of the function and collapsed just before 7 p.m. A co-worker who saw him collapse administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation. A local ambulance was sent to the scene, but the sailor was pronounced dead at 7:36 p.m., according to the release.

The cause of death has not yet been determined.

From staff and wire reports

Special pays likely to increase in '05

Boosts to FSA, IDP, other incentives sought by House, Senate

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — In addition to the guaranteed 3.5 percent basic pay raise and elimination of out-of-pocket expenses for housing, the Pentagon is banking on lawmakers approving additional pay and benefits for U.S. servicemembers.

Troops could see a permanent boost to the Family Separation Allowance and an increase in Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay; those overseas could get a lump-sum payout for nonrecurring expenses such as the television tax in England.

The raise and housing expenses relief became certain Aug. 5 when the president signed the \$417.5 billion 2005 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which funds the Pentagon's core programs and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the Defense bill is approved by Congress and signed by the president in two portions: the Appropriations Act, which allocates money; and the Authorization Act, which gives the Pentagon the authority to spend it.

Both houses of Congress work on their own versions of the two, and lawmakers will begin haggling over differences in the Authorization bills after Labor Day.

Meantime, Defense compensation experts have listed some measures in the "highly likely" category: provisions included in both houses' Authorization bills, but which still must pass the full Congress and be signed by the president.

Compensations officials also are fairly sure troops eligible to get Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay will see an increase from \$150 to \$225 a month.

They include a permanent increase in the FSA from \$100 to \$250 a month, no matter if separation takes a family member away from home for 30 days or more to a stateside training facility or to the combat zone, said Air Force Col. Virginia Penrod, director of Military Compensation.

Pentagon budget officials opposed the FSA increase and sought instead to boost the Hardship Duty Pay that would compensate everyone deployed to war zones, whether married or single, Penrod said. They are seeking an HDP boost from a maximum \$300 a month to \$750 a month. That request is in the "possible" column as it appears in the House version but not the Senate, Penrod said.

Compensations officials also are fairly sure troops eligible to get Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay will see an increase from \$150 to \$225 a month.

For those living overseas who have to pay incidental costs upfront, such as a television

tax and car tax in England, compensation officials want to provide COLA payments upfront to cover those nonrecurring expenses, instead of reimbursing troops for those up-front expenses little by little over months, she said.

Also fairly certain to be cleared in passage is upwards of a \$60,000 bonus to attract Reserve officers into critical skill areas.

The compensation officials wish list of "possible" incentives includes money to let any hospitalized servicemember continue to collect the Basic Allowance for Substance and forgo paying the daily \$8.10 for hospital meals, in essence double-dipping.

Before an outcry from lawmakers that led to changes, troops wounded or who became ill, even while fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan, for example, had to pay \$8.10 a day for meals while recuperating at military hospitals if they were collecting the BAS.

Also in the House version is a \$250 allotment per member to buy civilian clothes if he or she is medically evacuated from combat zones. Troops have often landed in the United States with nothing more than a hospital robe, Penrod said.

The House version also includes a provision to let servicemembers take up to three months advance of basic pay when deploying to a combat zone, and defers repayment of that advance until they return.

The Senate version has a clause that would increase the death gratuity each year by the same percentage amount as the basic pay raise. Last year, the Pentagon doubled the gratuity to \$12,000.

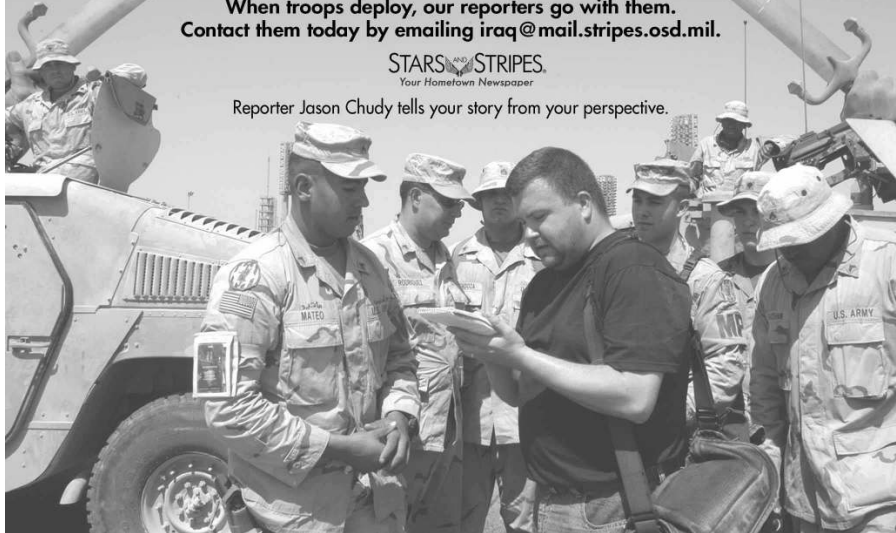
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IN THE STATES

Rumsfeld urges caution on intel reform

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld struck a cautious tone Tuesday on the need for a national intelligence director, saying any changes should not create new barriers between war fighters and agencies that collect intelligence.

As the Senate Armed Services Committee considered intelligence reform, acting CIA Director John McLaughlin also said he — personally — would support giving the proposed national intelligence director the authority to control the foreign intelligence elements of a national intelligence budget believed to be in the \$40 billion range.

That would give the proposed director-in-charge spending control over huge swaths of the country's intelligence network, including the Defense Department's National Security Agency and National Reconnaissance Office, even though Congress ultimately would decide the figure in the absence of a presidential veto.

Added budgetary powers, which the White House is considering, has sparked extensive debate.

Rumsfeld told the panel that consolidating defense intelligence agencies under a new director — outside the Defense Department — "could conceivably lead to some efficiencies in some aspects of intelligence collection" and "some modest but indefinable improvement."

But officials must be certain that such changes do not create new problems for intelligence agencies within the Defense Department, he said. "We would not want to place new barriers or filters between military combatant commanders and those agencies when they perform as combat-support agencies," Rumsfeld said.

The Sept. 11 commission's report suggested that Congress create an intelligence director of near-Cabinet rank to coordinate all 15 of the government's intelligence agencies, ensuring that they work with each other and share intelligence.

Amid a growing clamor for change during Congress's August recess, the committee's chairman also urged caution.

"As we examine ways to reform our intelligence community, we must be sure we do nothing to undermine the confidence of the battlefield commanders in the intelligence support on which they must depend," said Sen. John Warner.

The Virginia Republican suggested expanding the powers of the CIA director, who also oversees the 14 other agencies in the intelligence community, or giving the CIA director the title of national intelligence director.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Intelligence Committee, revealed Monday he has drafted legislation that would give the new intelligence chief the budget authority and hiring and firing power that the White House so far has not committed on.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Tuesday that President Bush has ruled nothing out, including budget power.

But the Pentagon currently controls most of the large intelligence agencies: the National Security Agency, which intercepts electronic communications; the National Reconnaissance Office, which operates spy satellites; and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, which analyzes satellite pictures.

The Defense Department also controls roughly 80 percent of the money spent on intelligence, a classified figure estimated at \$40 billion annually.

Former defense secretaries told senators Monday that the Pentagon's intelligence agencies ought to be left alone, highlighting the turf battles that may occur.

But Roberts said his committee is working on a draft bill that would be close to the Sept. 11 commission's suggestion of a powerful director. Congressional aides said the committee draft would include the National Counterterrorism Center and a national intelligence director with the power to hire and fire intelligence personnel, as well as set budgets for the 15 agencies.



A sign requesting donations sits among debris in south Punta Gorda, Fla., on Monday, following Hurricane Charley.

SARASOTA (FLA) HERALD-TRIBUNE AP

U.S. distributes disaster funds to hurricane victims in Florida

The Associated Press

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. — Federal disaster assistance money started flowing to Hurricane Charley's victims and postal workers handed out mail Tuesday outside their damaged building, but hundreds of thousands still had no phones, no running water, no diapers for the baby and no gas to fill the tank.

"I haven't had a hot meal in days, but I'm doing all right," said 82-year-old Norma Chapman, who drove to a half-demolished strip mall in Punta Gorda on Tuesday to pick up six bags of ice. She was still without any electricity or running water.

Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown visited Punta Gorda on Tuesday and said \$2 million in payments had already been issued to victims, with more on the way. He said the agency had received 23,500 applications seeking relief, including 13,000 on Monday alone.

Officials estimate Charley caused as much as \$11 billion in damage to insured homes alone when it tore across the state Friday.

Brown said FEMA was making preparations to house up to 10,000 people in temporary shelters.

There were other small signs of progress Tuesday.

At 7:45 a.m., the U.S. flag was raised at the heavily damaged main Post Office in Punta Gorda as 60 employees said the Pledge of Allegiance, cheered and applauded. Then, they went to work for the first time since Charley struck on Friday.

"We're back in business," declared Postmaster Doug Burns.



FLORIDA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE/AP

A billboard in West Palm Beach, Fla., shows an ad for hotel rooms. Attorney General Charlie Crist filed civil complaints Tuesday for price gouging and unfair trade practices against a West Palm Beach Days Inn. The hotel advertised \$39.99 on the billboard but asked for \$109 and \$119 a room, Crist said.

The building's front windows and sliding glass doors were blown out, sections of the roof were missing and insulation from a nearby business was plastered across rental mail boxes. Since people could not get to the boxes, Postal Service employees handed out mail in a drive-through operation.

About 640,000 people remained without power Tuesday, state officials said, estimating it could take weeks to get electricity fully restored. At least 150,000 were without local phone service.

Early Tuesday, state emergency management spokeswoman Tameeka Forbes said the death toll had been raised from 18 to 19, but no further details on the new reported death were released.

Saudi Arabia cites 9/11 report in radio ads

WASHINGTON — Stung by criticism about its role in fighting terrorism, Saudi Arabia has launched a radio advertising campaign in Portland, Maine, and 18 other cities citing the Sept. 11 commission report as proof that it has been a loyal ally in the fight against al-Qaida.

The two advertisements quote the commission's conclusion that the Saudi government did not fund al-Qaida. One ad cites the report's finding that Saudi Arabia stopped a 1998 plot to attack U.S. troops; the other cites a finding that Saudis were not flown out of the United States right after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The ads don't address commission criticism of Saudi Arabia, which the report called "a problematic ally in combating Islamic extremism." It said Saudi-funded Islamic schools have been exploited by extremists and, while Saudi cooperation against terrorism improved after the Sept. 11 attacks, "significant problems remained."

In addition to Portland, the cities are Atlanta; Birmingham, Ala.; Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland; Dallas; Detroit; Houston; Kansas City, Mo.; Memphis, Tenn.; Minneapolis, Minn.; Oklahoma City; Phoenix; St. Louis; Seattle; Tampa, Fla.; and Washington.

From The Associated Press

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ May you be blessed with strength and courage, the knowledge of truth, the power of endurance, peace in your hearts, and the warmth of our love for you. And... may you always have an angel by your side to guide and protect you on your way. Thank You All.

Honoring those who answered

America's Call to Action

Every service member's commitment to our nation's defense is invaluable.

During the month of September, DefendAmerica.mil and the Pentagon Channel will spotlight some of the many men and women in uniform who joined the armed forces in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

If you responded to the attack by joining the military and would like us to consider your story for publication, please fill up the form found at:

www.defendamerica.mil/forms/CallAction.html

GOP calls for N.J. governor's immediate ouster

McGreevey had said he would step down Nov. 15 after saying he's gay

BY JOHN P. MCALPIN

The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Republican Party leaders hope to ratchet up the pressure on Gov. James E. McGreevey to leave office before a self-imposed November deadline by taking their case to the public.

Republican businessman Doug Forrester, the party's unsuccessful choice in the 2002 race for U.S. Senate, announced plans to air a series of radio and television commercials, telling voters the state needs a change in leadership.

In a commercial to be shown on cable television, a voice-over announcer suggests the state needs an elected lieutenant governor, as viewers see images of McGreevey with Democratic state Sen. Richard Codey, the man who as Senate president is to finish the balance of McGreevey's term.

"It is important that we focus on the serious issue of good government," said Forrester, who is one of several possible GOP candidates for a potential special election.

Appealing directly to the public marks a shift in GOP strategy, moving from legal approaches for ousting McGreevey, said the party chairman, state Sen. Joseph Kyriillos.

McGreevey upended the state's political landscape Thursday by saying that he had engaged in an extramarital affair with a man and announcing he would resign his office, effective Nov. 15.

If he stays in office beyond Sept. 3, McGreevey saves off the need for a special election for the remainder of his term, which expires in January 2006.

A spokeswoman for the governor, Ellen Melloy, denied the timing of the resignation had anything to do with the window for a special election. "Much thought went into the Nov. 15 date. The date was chosen to ensure a smooth transition of government," Melloy said.

McGreevey, making his first public comments since disclosing his homosexuality, defended his record and the effective date of his resignation in an opinion piece that appeared in Tuesday's USA Today.

In a Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll released Monday, 41 percent of those surveyed said they thought Nov. 15 was the right date for McGreevey to leave office. However, 48 percent said he should have resigned immediately. The poll — of 500 registered voters that was conducted Friday, Saturday and Sunday — had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.



New Jersey state Republican Chairman Joe Kyriillos, left, and state Sen. Alex DeCroce, R-Morris, call for Gov. James E. McGreevey to step down immediately during a Monday news conference at the Statehouse in Trenton, N.J.

AP

Man at center of controversy visits Israel

BY PETER ENAV

The Associated Press

RISHON LETZION, Israel — A tense and tired Golan Cipel is the Israeli man at the center of New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey's resignation saga, said Tuesday he flew home to Israel to meet strength from his family and would return to the United States soon.

In front of his parents' apartment in an eight-story building in a Tel Aviv suburb, Cipel spoke

in public for the first time since McGreevey resigned last week.

Cipel vowed to stay only that he has had a "very difficult time."

Later, in a written statement, Cipel vowed to return to the United States to "make sure justice comes to light."

McGreevey resigned last week after announcing he is gay and had an extramarital affair with a man. Sources close to McGreevey identified the man as Cipel and said the Israeli demanded millions of dollars to

keep quiet.

Cipel, 35, told an Israeli newspaper that he is straight, but that the governor, his former boss, repeatedly made unwarranted sexual advances — a claim denied by McGreevey's aides.

In Israel, Cipel declined to answer reporters' questions, but later released the statement saying, "Sexual harassment is a very difficult thing and those who haven't been through it don't understand how difficult it can be."

SUNY-Albany at top of party-school list

BY MARK JOHNSON

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Beating Harvard or Yale on a list of rankings would ordinarily make administrators at the State University of New York at Albany beam. But not when it wins the nation's No. 1 party school crown.

Albany was ranked seventh in the use of hard liquor and marijuana, ninth in beer drinking and first in "students (almost) never study," helping get Princeton Review's top party spot.

The review's annual "Best 357 Colleges" survey, conducted since 1992, is based on responses from more than 110,000 students at campuses around the country. The review has no affiliation with Princeton University.

"The rankings are not to be taken seriously, and are certainly not reflective of the serious, hardworking students at Albany," university spokeswoman Lisa James-Goldsberry said in a statement.

It is the ninth time the University at Albany — a state-run school with an undergraduate enrollment of 12,000 students — has been on the party school list. It was No. 1 in 1998 and No. 14 last year. The University of Colorado at Boulder ranked No. 1 last year.

Brightman Young University was ranked the top "stone-cold sober" school, the survey found. Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the toughest to get into. The happiest students overall were at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif.

The "party school" category is based on questions focusing on the amount of alcohol and drug consumption, the amount of time students spend studying, and the popularity of fraternities and sororities.

The American Medical Association has criticized party school listings, saying they legitimizing high-risk drinking and portraying alcohol as an essential part of student life.

Other top 10 party schools were Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.; the University of Wisconsin-Madison; West Virginia University, Morgantown; Ohio University, Athens; Florida State University, Tallahassee; University of Texas-Austin; University of Georgia, Athens; University of Colorado; University of Mississippi.

Winfrey selected for a jury in Chicago

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey was picked to serve on a jury at Cook County Criminal Court.

Winfrey walked into the courtroom Monday through an alternate entrance to avoid crowds. But officials said once inside the courtroom, she wouldn't receive any special treatment.

The talk-show host had told reporters she didn't think she'd be picked because she's too opinionated. But Winfrey added that if she were selected, "I'm just hoping it doesn't take longer than a week because I've got shows to do."

After Winfrey was selected for a murder trial, Judge James B. Linn was asked how she was picked.

"This was a straight-up jury selection," he said. Last week, Cook County Sheriff's office spokeswoman Sally Daly said Winfrey was among some 300 prospective jurors scheduled to appear at court Monday.

Presidential campaign ads take no August break

BY LIZ SIDOTI

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In late summer, when most people expect a break from presidential campaign ads, both sides in this year's White House race are blitzing the airwaves with more than \$60 million worth of commercials.

Political campaigns traditionally spend less on advertising in August, when voters are thinking more about vacations and less about politics. But with the race between President Bush and Sen.

John Kerry still tight, both sides are running wall-to-wall commercials in nearly two dozen competitive states and on national cable networks.

"The race is so close and it will be decided by so few voters in so few states that neither side can afford to go down," said Ken Goldstein, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor who studies campaign ads.

Bush is spending at least \$30 million on TV and radio ads this month. Kerry is not advertising until September to save money,

but the Democratic National Committee is spending more than \$20 million on TV ads and other liberal groups have committed more than \$11 million. Conservative groups also are on the air but to a much lower extent.

The figure for August is expected to rise, with both sides spending more money each week.

And that's despite low viewership in August. An estimated 92.8 million people on average watch television on Sunday nights in August, compared with 110.7 million on comparable October evenings, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Hoping to catch sports fans, Bush is advertising on cable networks during the Olympic Games even though prices are anywhere from 25 percent to almost double the cost of ads during regular programming.

By Labor Day, the candidates, both of whom the figure shows will have spent more than \$280 million on an almost constant stream of commercials since ads for the general election began in March, months earlier than previous elections. It was the start of what would become an atypical political advertising season.

IN THE WORLD



Moroccan Mounir el Motassadeq, center, waits with his lawyer Josef Graessler-Muenschner, right, and a translator on the third day of el Motassadeq's retrial on Tuesday in Hamburg, northern Germany.

Witness: Moroccan key to Hamburg cell

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

HAMBURG, Germany — A Moroccan accused of helping the Sept. 11, 2001, suicide pilots was a central member of an increasingly radical group around lead hijacker Mohammed Atta that believed "something had to be done against America," a witness testified Tuesday.

Shahid Nickels, a 23-year-old German student, was the first of more than 30 witnesses scheduled to appear before the Hamburg state court retrying Mounir el Motassadeq, who is charged with giving logistical aid to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included Atta and fellow hijackers Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah.

Nickels said he met the men in 1997 at Hamburg's radical al-Qaida mosque, where he attended a Quran study class led by Atta.

The group believed that "Israel

didn't have the right to statehood and suicide attacks were legitimate," Nickels said. "In America, they believed that the Jews had a lot of power."

The group's inner circle included el Motassadeq, Nickels testified.

The group became increasingly radical and by late 1999 the conversation "was all about jihad," or holy war, he said.

"They said that something had to be done against America — it was the general opinion," Nickels said.

Nickels then distanced himself from the group because, he testified, "I couldn't stand hearing any more about the guilt of the Jews."

El Motassadeq, 30, was convicted in February 2003 of membership in a terrorist organization and more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and then sentenced to the maximum 15 years. Nickels testified during that trial.

But the conviction was overturned in March.

British police charge 8 with terrorist offenses

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — British police on Tuesday filed charges of conspiracy to murder and other offenses against eight terrorist suspects — including an alleged top al-Qaida operative charged with possessing plans of financial institutions that were at the center of a U.S. terror alert this month.

A U.S. government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said one of the men, 32-year-old Dhiren Barot, was a key al-Qaida suspect — variously identified in published reports as Abu Eisa al-Hindi or Abu Musa al-Hindi — suspected of being involved in surveillance on prominent financial institutions in Washington and New York.

In London, Metropolitan Police would not comment on the suspects' aliases.

Police said Barot, Mohammed Naveed Bhatti, 24; Abdul Aziz Jilil, 31; Omar Abdul Rahman, 20; Junade Feroze, 28; Zia ul Haq, 25; Qaisar Shaffi, 25; and Nadeem

Tarmohammed, 26, were all accused of conspiring "with other persons unknown" to commit murder between January 2000 and Aug. 4 of this year.

The eight also were charged with conspiring between the same dates to cause a public nuisance by using radioactive materials, toxic gases, chemicals and/or explosives to cause "disruption, fear or injury."

Barot and Tarmohammed were charged with possessing a reconnaissance plan of the Prudential Building in Newark, N.J., in violation of the Terrorism Act.

Barot was charged with possession of notebooks containing information on explosives, poisons, chemicals and related matters, and of a reconnaissance plan concerning the New York Stock Exchange, the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C., and the Citigroup building in New York.

Those buildings, along with the World Bank in Washington, were identified by U.S. Homeland Secu-

riety Secretary Tom Ridge on Aug. 1 as targets in possible terrorist plots uncovered by new intelligence.

Officials later said the intelligence included surveillance reports on the buildings from 2000 and 2001, and acknowledged the U.S. government had discovered no evidence of plans for imminent attacks.

Shaffi was charged with possessing an extract from the "Terrorist's Handbook" containing information on the preparation of chemicals, explosive recipes and other information.

A ninth man, Matthew Philip Monks, 32, was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon.

The men were among 13 detained in Aug. 3 raids across England linked to arrests last month in Pakistan, and to the Aug. 1 terrorism alerts in New York, New Jersey and Washington.

The eight were due to make a first court appearance Wednesday at Belmarsh high security prison in London.

Associated Press reporter Ted Brails in Washington contributed to this report.

New U.N. chief for Kosovo maps out future for province

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — Kosovo's new U.N. administrator outlined plans Tuesday to steer the ethnically divided and disputed province away from its violent past by improving security and reviving the dilapidated economy.

Soren Jessen-Petersen, a Danish refugee expert and former European Union representative to Macedonia, outlined his priorities during his first news conference in Kosovo since being named to the post on June 16 by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

He insisted that security must be in place before talks can start on how Kosovo will be governed in the future. The province is governed by a U.N. Security Council resolution that leaves Kosovo's political status undetermined.

"Kosovo cannot move forward if ... it is not a safe place," Jessen-Petersen said. "Every time violence prevails it is a setback in

our efforts ... to bring Kosovo toward status discussions."

The province was wracked by violence earlier this year, when mobs of ethnic Albanians attacked Serbs and their property.

Nineteen people were killed and more than 900 were injured during a two-day rampage that left the U.N. mission in turmoil.

The violence also hampered efforts to hold talks on Kosovo's political future. The province's Serbs want Kosovo to remain part of Serbia-Montenegro, the successor state to Yugoslavia. The ethnic Albanian majority wants independence.

Jessen-Petersen appealed for help from international institutions — especially the EU — to ease a problem that contributes to Kosovo's instability.

One of Jessen-Petersen's first tasks will be to try to persuade the dwindling Serb minority to participate in general elections Oct. 23. The Serbs have threatened to boycott citing lack of security.



Cars are strewn about after being thrown by the rushing water in Boscawell, southwest England, on Monday. Dozens of people had to be rescued after heavy rain caused flash floods in area seaside communities.

Flash floods catch England off guard

The Associated Press

LONDON — Rescue crews in emergency helicopters and lifeboats continue to search seaside communities in southwestern England on Tuesday for people stranded by flash flooding.

Devon and Cornwall Police said more than 100 people have been evacuated from the Boscawell area of Cornwall, a popular summer tourist area with sandy beaches and picturesque villages.

The flooding was sparked by 2.4 inches of rainfall in just hours on Monday afternoon. Residents in the town of Boscawell, which lies in a valley leading to the sea, reported that an estimated three-foot wall of water poured through the streets at 40 mph.

Scores of people were airlifted from cars, trees

and rooftops where they had scrambled to evade the rapidly rising water. Eight people have been treated for conditions ranging from hypothermia to broken bones.

Michael Mulford, spokesman for the Royal Air Force base at Kinloss, which is coordinating the military rescue effort, said hundreds more people could be airlifted from the flood-stricken area.

"A lot of them managed to get away to high ground in the early stages, but we have to consider the possibility that they may have many hundreds, up to a theoretical 1,000 people, who may need rescuing," Mulford said.

The Coast Guard said that police divers will search for up to 50 vehicles, believed to be empty, that were washed into a harbor.

Israel defies road map, opens housing bidding

BY PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government on Tuesday issued bids for 1,000 new homes in Jewish West Bank settlements, in a violation of a U.S.-backed peace plan, but insisted the construction has Washington's tacit approval.

U.S. officials said Tuesday they expect Israel to abide by the "road map" peace plan which calls for a construction freeze in Jewish settlements.

There has been growing tension between Israel and the United States in recent weeks over the West Bank settlements, both over the ongoing construction in the veteran communities and Israel's failure to dismantle settlement outposts.

However, public U.S. criticism of Israel has been relatively muted.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision to issue the tenders comes as he is facing a growing rebellion in his Likud Party. Party hardliners oppose his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip by 2005, and to bring the moderate Labor Party into his fragile coalition.

The party's Central Committee is to vote Wednesday on a possible alliance with Labor, and Sharon could easily lose the vote.



Sharon

Sharon has said he wants to annex large West Bank settlement blocs to Israel as part of a future peace deal.

Housing Ministry spokesman Kobi Bleich said that the six settlements earmarked for expansion are within "the Israeli consensus," meaning they are among those Israel plans to keep in any scenario.

In April, President Bush said it was "unrealistic" to expect Israel to withdraw from all of the West Bank and dismantle large population centers in a peace agreement with the Palestinians. This was seen by Israel as a green light to continue expanding large settlement blocs.

However, U.S. Embassy spokesman Paul Patin reiterated that Israel must honor its commitments under the road map. "Israel has accepted the road map and all its stipulations and we expect it to abide by them," Patin said.

The Israeli government adopted the road map in May 2003, but it never got off the ground, as both Israel and the Palestinians failed to fulfill their obligations.

Also Tuesday, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz toured Gaza and said the army has begun preparing for a withdrawal. Mofaz said it is a "very complicated operation," but did not provide details.

In new violence Tuesday, a 9-year-old boy was shot and killed in the West Bank city of Nablus. Palestinians said the circumstances were unclear. The area was under Israeli military curfew and soldiers had a position on a roof across from the boy's home, but medics said they did not see the shooting.

Family wants U.S. visa for Mexican thought dead

BY OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
The Associated Press

SALINAS VICTORIA, Mexico — Omar Garcia Escobedo's family thought their 25-year-old son had, like so many other migrants seeking work in the United States, drowned trying to cross the treacherous, fast flowing Rio Grande River.

After all, on Aug. 6, an investigator in Texas' Starr County called and said a man carrying a wallet with his ID card had drowned in the river. His father and a cousin went to the United States and identified the badly decomposed body from photographs.

But two days after the burial ceremony, the factory worker and father of a 10-month-old boy called to say he was alive and well in the border city of Brownsville, Texas.

The stunned family said Monday that Garcia Escobedo should be granted temporary U.S. residency and a work visa because of the foul-up. They also want U.S. authorities to take back the body of the unidentified man they put in the ground and pay the \$2,500 a funeral home charged them for the burial services.

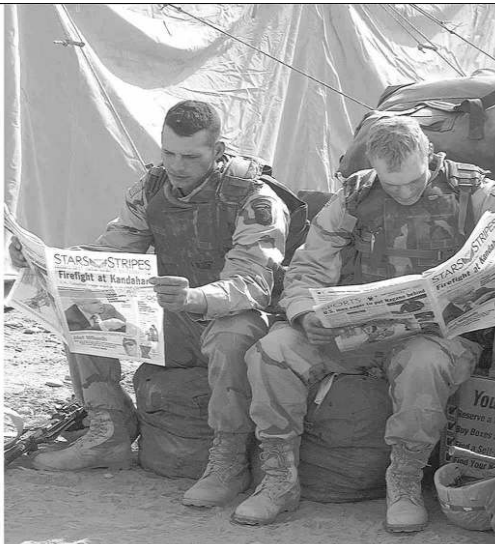
"We told them my cousin had a scar on his left eyebrow and that his toes were crooked," said Melva Villareal, a cousin who went to the United States to identify the body. "They told us our description matched the body and we trusted them."

Garcia Escobedo headed to the United States from his home in Salinas Victoria, about 100 miles from Laredo, Texas, in early August and was robbed when he arrived at the border.

Family members at first said they planned to sue Texas authorities for negligence, but have since backed off that claim.

They said instead they'd prefer for Garcia Escobedo to avoid deportation back to Mexico.

"The only thing I want is that they leave my son alone so that he can work," said his father, also named Omar. "I ask that they put his papers in order."



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OPINION

In any era, oil and fear are a combustible mix

Chicago Tribune

Basra, Chavez, Yukos. Fear. That line of type, in a nutshell, is what propelled oil prices above \$45 a barrel Thursday. That's nowhere near the \$80 or so per-barrel price (in "cents" inflated dollars) that was reached nearly a quarter of a century ago. But it's high enough to put a dent in consumers' wallets and impede economic growth. It's making everyone very nervous.

It's even leading Democrats to demand once again that the Bush administration stop filling the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

That would be a mistake. The reserve is meant to provide an emergency stockpile in the event that U.S. oil supplies are cut off. Using the reserve to attempt to mitigate high prices didn't work very well when former President Bill Clinton tried it and wouldn't work if President Bush tried it.

The worldwide oil market is being driven by factors that, at least in the short term, are beyond the control of the U.S. government.

Demand for oil is high, fueled by sizzling growth in China and continued expansion in the United States. Supplies are drum-tight and that makes oil markets jittery about any possible disruption.

Basra is a disruption. On Aug. 9, Iraq suspended the pumping of oil to its export terminals in Basra because of sabotage attacks from supporters of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Some 90 percent of Iraq's oil exports more through that port city. Pumping resumed the next day, but the threat of more disruptions persists.

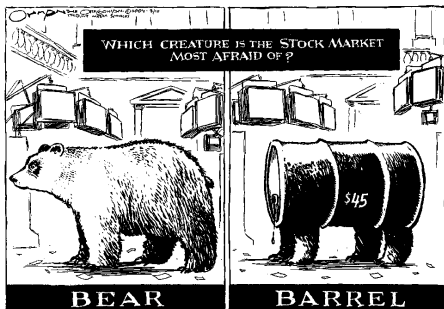
Chavez is Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who survived a recall vote Sunday. A strike by oil workers last year and continuing political unrest have raised fears about potential disruptions at Venezuela's state-owned oil company.

Yukos is another possible disruption and the one least familiar to Americans. Yukos is the leading oil company in Russia, which is now who knew — the second-largest oil-exporting country in the world behind Saudi Arabia. Yukos produces 20 percent of Russia's exports and 2 percent of total world supply.

Yukos' problems have nothing to do with terrorism or the war in Iraq and everything to do with a tug-of-war over its assets. The Russian government is seeking payment of billions in unpaid back taxes from Yukos and prosecuting its former top executive, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, for alleged tax evasion and fraud. Contradictory court decisions, first freezing, then unfreezing, then refreezing various Yukos oil-producing assets, have confused markets about just what Vladimir Putin's government is trying to accomplish with its case against Yukos and what impact it will have on the world's oil supplies.

Oil exports from Russia haven't been disrupted, and it's not likely they will be — at least in a lasting way. Oil, after all, isn't worth a ruble in revenues or tax payments if it can't be sold. Russians can't eat or drink the stuff. But oil traders have bid up world prices on the mere possibility that the Yukos spigot could be shut off.

Fear, the fourth factor roiling oil prices,



needs little explanation. That fear — of terrorism, of disruptions on the other three fronts — reflects the risk premium at play in oil, which some pricing experts have estimated to be \$10 or \$15 a barrel. Absent the fear factor, Basra or Yukos would not register like seismic shocks, and the potential for unrest in Venezuela would be just the latest twist in that long South American saga. With so many factors at play simultaneously, though, any negative development in any corner of the oil market is seen as potentially devastating.

That risk premium is unlikely to disappear until the situations in Iraq, Venezuela and Russia begin to stabilize. As for the fear factor, it's become a cost of doing business in this truly global, and vulnerable, market.

Oil prices are likely to stay high, although nowhere near the peak they reached (in constant dollars) in the early 1980s. In this country, those high prices are likely to increase the political clamor for action — any action. The unpleasant truth is there's little the United States can do in the short term to calm the jittery oil market.

At his toughest hour, we saw N.J. governor's soul

By Dave Boyer

The Philadelphia Inquirer

With a speech that cut short his disastrous term, New Jersey governor Jim McGreevey finally inspired some admiration.

The reasons for his resignation — admitting an affair with a man after reportedly being threatened with litigation — are nothing to cheer. McGreevey may very well have been forced into this stunning admission.

But the way McGreevey confronted the situation Thursday was one of the bravest acts I've seen in politics.

He stood there in front of his family and the world and admitted that he had been living a double life.

"My truth is that I am a gay American," McGreevey said.

And that sound you heard was jaws dropping all over New Jersey and beyond.

It's not commendable to deceive the public for the first 2½ years of your tenure, or to expose the governor's office to, as he said, "ruin, false allegations and threats of disclosure." And we don't know yet whether McGreevey's speech was aimed in some small part at laying legal groundwork for whatever else might be coming. His precise phrasing of "adult consensual affair" sounded as much like a defense as it did an explanation.

Still, McGreevey could have handled this scandal the way so many other politicians do: He could have given a brief statement acknowledging that he had "caused pain" in his marriage and was resigning in the best interests of his family. He could have issued a short news release and disappeared. End of story.

Instead, he laid open his soul and his sexuality on camera. His speech was so personal and revealing, at one point I found myself wishing he would stop. It was as if he were

giving us too much information, even for a society and media that crave such intimate details about our leaders and our celebrities.

Talk about reality TV ...

"It makes little difference that, as governor, I am gay," he said. "In fact, having the ability to truthfully set forth my identity might have enabled me to be more forthright in fulfilling and discharging my constitutional obligations."

Here McGreevey was, crashing and burning in his political career, yet displaying the at-long-last empowerment he was feeling for the first time in his life. And you had to be at least appreciate the burden that was lifting right before our eyes.

"And this, the 47th year of my life, is arguably too late to have this discussion," he said. "But it is here, and it is now."

How many people watching him, across the nation, have wrestled with saying similar words to a family member or friend, let alone to the media horde? Does this admis-

sion somehow salvage McGreevey's legacy as governor? No way. He has been a poor governor, regardless of his hidden sexuality and his coming out.

From the start, the former mayor of Woodbridge, N.J., looked like he was in over his head in Trenton, N.J. He made dubious appointments in his leadership term. His chief of staff and another top official resigned early on, after allegations surfaced that they had been using their positions on McGreevey's team to leverage billboard deals on the side.

After 10 months in office, he had to explain he'd be taken 272 trips in state police helicopters, including 14 that were not for official business. Then, of course, there was his taxpayer-funded trip to Ireland, which the state Democratic Party paid for later. McGreevey got entangled in so many ethical dilemmas that he finally threw himself on the mercy of an ethicist/adviser appointed to watch over him.

His legislative agenda? Not impressive, gay governor or straight governor. He came into office saddled with huge budget shortfalls that required unpopular cuts and tax increases.

McGreevey couldn't seem to get a break, or to make his own breaks.

What should have been his crowning achievement instead was tarnished by a boycott from environmentalists angered that he had cut a deal to allow, potentially, more rapid development in South Jersey.

His term has been marked by ineptitude. Maybe that's why some of us found ourselves rooting for him Thursday, in spite of ourselves.

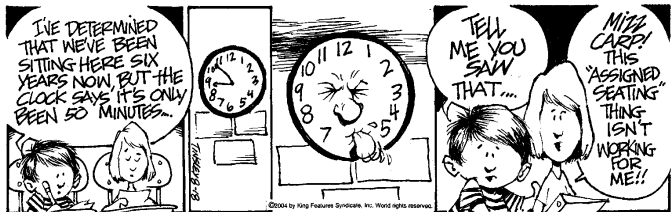
He talked of a "responsible transition" as the reason for waiting until Nov. 15 to step down. Not coincidentally, that timetable allows Democrats to hold onto the office through next year.

So, for the next three months, New Jersey has a gay governor.

If only he had run that way.

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



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Leaning to the left

NE BROKEN BOW — Cluster County Chief publisher Deb McCaslin admits her newspaper, at least for a week, was leftist.

But not in the way most media critics would presume.

The weekly Chief was printed backward so the front page opened to the left instead of the right as do most periodicals.

McCaslin said the newspaper matched the edition to International Left-hander Day.

"Sometimes, you have to have fun," she said.

In addition to a story on products for left-handers on the shelves of stores in Broken Bow, the newspaper listed famous people who were known to be southpaws.

Carjacker jailed for life

RI PROVIDENCE — The last of five defendants in a case that embodied fears of random carjacking was sentenced to four consecutive life terms without parole and another 30 years for the murders of two college students who begged for their lives after a carjacking.

A jury found Kenneth Day, 25, guilty on nine counts of murder, robbery, carjacking and conspiracy. His lawyer said he would appeal.

Amy Shute, 21, and Jason Burgeson, 20, were killed in June 2000 after a group of men carjacked their SUV in Providence and drove them to a construction site about five miles away. The men split \$18 in change taken from the couple, and two of them took the SUV.

Day said in court Monday that he was willing to apologize to the victims, "But they don't want to hear that. There is nothing I can do or say."

The superhero store

IA SIOUX CITY — Like a persistent superhero, a comic book store has avenged two close defeats to claim the industry's top prize.

ACME Comics & Collectibles recently captured the 2004 "Spirit of Comics" Retailer Award, given to the industry's best book store of the year.

Owners Kevin and Fran McGarry, who had been a runner-up for the honor for the past two years, are marveling at the accomplishment awarded at the Comic-Con convention in San Diego.

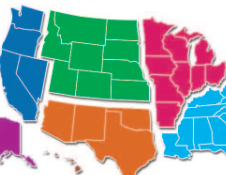
Their small independent store in Sioux City beat out several large chains that operate in bigger metro areas — including Superman and Incredible Hulk.

Their store carries comic books and graphic novels from 79 different publishers, from industry giants Marvel and DC Comics to small independents.

Can't study for this test

TX HOUSTON — Schools across Texas are adding random drug testing and increased locker inspections this year, officials say.

At least three school districts in the Houston area will begin random drug testing this year. One company that provides testing for Texas schools has signed up nearly 30 districts across the state.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Strip clubs on the block

MA SPRINGFIELD — City councilors in this western Massachusetts city are scheduled to vote on regulations to ban strip clubs and other adult businesses from residential and some industrial areas. The city planning board has approved the restrictions. The downtown area already has five strip clubs.

Activists: Plant pollutes

TX DUBLIN — The Altamaha River is being polluted by a recycling plant, environmental volunteers say. James Holland, a member of the Altamaha Riverkeeper, sued SP Newsprint for sending plastic trash into the river. The paper company insists it's complying with state pollution standards.

State all dried up

NV RENO — A Las Vegas shopping center is trucking in water from as far away as Canada to fill its fountains. Reno will have to dip into its drought reserve supply for the first time in a decade. The most popular public ramp on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe is closed because there's not enough water to float a boat.

Nevada is not only the fastest

growing state in the nation, it's also one of the driest. And it keeps getting drier.

"There is no question that the state, from Lake Tahoe in northern Nevada to Lake Mead in southern Nevada is in the midst of a difficult drought," Gov. Kenny Guinn said.

Officials with the U.S. Farm Services Agency in Nevada are scheduled to meet to decide whether to recommend a disaster area declaration to the governor and federal Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman. All 17 counties received the designation last year.

Reno has received only 0.24 inches of rain this month and hasn't seen a decent rainfall since June 9. Las Vegas has received 0.2 inches of rain this month, almost half of that in a storm Aug. 1 that tied a rainfall record for the date of 0.09 inches.

Peak voltage

NH MOUNT WASHINGTON — Electricity and fiber-optic communications are coming to the top of Mount Washington, the Northeast's highest peak and site of some of the world's worst weather. Engineers will run the transmission line near the Mount Washington Cog Railway. The transmission line will replace kerosene generators used to power the cog railway and a National Park Service building at the summit.

Abuse support group

KS WICHITA — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Wichita says it will establish an ecumenical support group for victims of sexual abuse by clergy. The diocesan review board has met with The Link-Up, a national advocacy organization for victims of clergy sexual abuse. No timetable has been set for starting the group.

Abortion notification

CO DENVER — Abortion opponents are questioning the effectiveness of a new law requiring doctors to notify a minor's parents before performing an abortion. A provision of the law allows girls to seek a judge's permission to bypass the requirement. Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains has paired 66 girls with attorneys who volunteer for bypass cases. It says none of the girls who decided to go before a judge was denied.

Boiling water advised

IN EVANSVILLE — Residents on the city's west side are being advised to boil their water for the next few days after more than 100 million gallons of water spilled from a broken water main connection. Thousands of residents had no water at all, according to the company that manages the city's water and sewer utility.

Inmates could lose work

MT DEER LODGE — A federal demand for greater scrutiny of truck drivers could affect Montana's effort to train felons for work after their release. Under the Patriot Act, commercial drivers with certain felony convictions are prohibited from transporting hazardous materials. That curbs the employment outlook for some of the 25-30 inmates a year who complete the truck-driver training program at the Montana State Prison.



Magnificent dives

Members of the Extreme Team Divers for Sacco Shows, Ryan Peschke, top, Jen Busby, middle, and Emily McAuliff synchronize their dives during a show at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield, Ill.



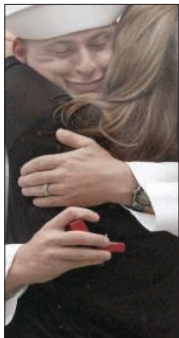
Surf's up, dude

A surfer hangs on as he rides one of the bigger than normal waves provided by Hurricane Charley at Burkes Beach on Hilton Head Island, S.C.



Prtrrr-fect face

Eniah Afford, 4, wears face paint at Unity Day on the Parkway in Philadelphia.



I do!

Petty Officer 1st Class Matt Brink holds an engagement ring as he hugs his fiancée, Catherine McLemore, after asking her to marry him, as the USS Leyte Gulf returned to Norfolk, Va.



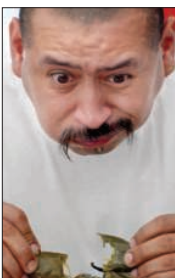
Tough moment

Morgan Sickles, 12, of Pewaukee, Wis., shares a moment with her dog, George, a cavalier King Charles spaniel, after they were eliminated by the judge from the Junior Show class at the Marshfield Area Kennel Club Dog Shows at the Central Wisconsin State Fairgrounds in Marshfield, Wis.



All play, no work

Sisters Mary, right, and Grace Ott, from Page County, Va., play a racing video game next to some of their family's cows while killing time in one of the livestock barns at the Prince William County Fair in Manassas, Va.



One hot meal

Ramon Nava eats a plate of jalapeño peppers during Mexican Fiesta's jalapeño eating contest at the festival grounds in Racine, Wis.

Skyline scuffle

VA MONTEREY — Plans for a large commercial wind farm are drawing complaints from some residents, who say towering windmills would mar the stunning vistas that give Highland County the nickname "Virginia's Switzerland."

Landowner Henry T. McBride and his company, Highland New Wind Development LLC, have asked the county Board of Supervisors for a conditional-use permit to erect as many as 22 wind turbines on 3,000 acres near the West Virginia border. The windmills would be up to 400 feet high.

Board Chairman Robin Sullenberger said the supervisors will have to balance the potential revenues the farm could bring to the cash-strapped locality against the impact on the magnificent vistas that attracts visitors.

Battle for the Strip

CA WEST HOLLYWOOD — The city is placing a velvet rope around the Sunset Strip, trying to control which clubs and eateries use the storied nickname, but some businesses say they're trying to rewrite history.

West Hollywood leaders say the famous moniker should apply solely to a 1.7-mile stretch of Sunset Boulevard within the city's limits.

To stake its claim, the city has hung banners proclaiming "Sunset Strip — Only in West Hollywood" on street lights, and it's considering building a formal "gateway" to West Hollywood along the boulevard.

"It's frustrating when West Hollywood is misidentified," said Brad Burlingame, president of the West Hollywood Convention and Visitors Bureau. "If they said Rodeo Drive is in Los Angeles, people in Beverly Hills would have a fit."

Home insurer refunding

TX AUSTIN — Allstate, the state's second-largest home insurer, will begin issuing refunds totaling \$60 million to Texas policy holders, the company announced.

A Texas Department of Insurance spokesman said the refunds are part of a rate rollback ordered by Commissioner Jose Montemayor last year.

The one-time refund to about 686,000 customers represents 8.75 percent of the premiums paid on home insurance policies with effective dates from Sept. 7, 2003, through Sept. 6, 2004, the company said. Allstate had already issued a 10.1 percent refund last year.

Screeners arrested

NY NEW YORK — Four federal security screeners were charged with stealing watches, jewelry and other property from baggage at two New York City airports, authorities said.

One screener was accused of stealing \$40 in cash, watches and rings from luggage sent by undercover detectives through screening at the American Airlines terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The other defendants were accused of stealing from bags at La Guardia airport's Continental Airlines terminal in May.

All four screeners worked for the Transportation Security Administration, the agency created

after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. TSA employees are authorized to open bags to search for explosives and banned items.

Student named to board

VT MONTPELIER — A sophomore at Mount Anthony Union High School has been appointed to the state Board of Education.

Lindy Caslin takes up her new duties immediately.

"Lindy was very enthusiastic about serving Vermont as a member of the state Board of Education," Gov. James Douglas said. "She is energetic and engaging, and will take the responsibility of representing all of our students very seriously."

The State Board of Education, which supervises the Vermont Department of Education and many aspects of the public school system, consists of eight adult members and two student members.

Student members are appointed to two-year terms. Marissa Cormier, appointed by Douglas in 2003, is the ranking student on the board. She recently began the second year of her two-year term.

ID theft charges

NC CONCORD — Three people have been charged in an identity theft case in which computers, clothing and luggage were obtained using stolen credit card information taken with a portable card reader.

Police said they had recovered about \$6,000 worth of goods obtained in Concord and the Winston-Salem area.

Authorities believe a portable credit card reader, or skimmer, was used to read personal information off a credit card's magnetic strip. Then those details were applied to the strip on the back of a different card.

Police are still investigating the case from last and have asked for help from the U.S. Secret Service office in Charlotte.

Animal workers fired

RI EAST PROVIDENCE — City Manager William Fazioli has fired the city's animal-control officer and the four other employees who staffed the municipal animal shelter, for what he says was a "willful failure" to protect visitors and animals alike from the spread of rabies.

Fazioli announced the dismissals after reviewing the results of a three-week police investigation into how and why a rabid raccoon ended up in the city-run shelter, and ended up being petted and touched by more than 50 people.

Alleged attack stayed

PA ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP — A nurse's aide at a personal-care home fought with a man who was allegedly sexually assaulting a wheelchair-bound woman before breaking free and summoning help.

The aide, Mary Briggs, allegedly found Dwight Hill with the 79-year-old woman.

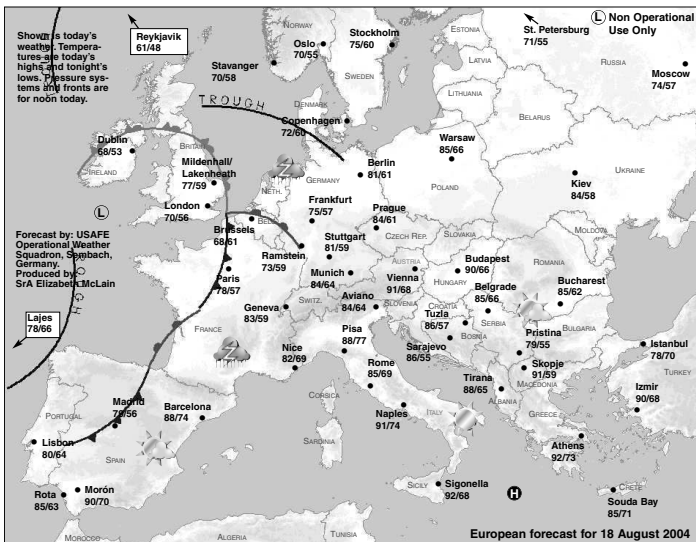
Hill, 44, who lived at the home and worked there as a handyman, was arraigned. He was charged with involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, indecent assault and two counts of simple assault.

Stories and photos from wire services



New York kisses

David and Nadine Bilotti of New York participate in the "Kiss-In" as their 13-month-old twins Nadine, left, and Ileana look on in New York's Times Square. The event commemorates the legendary lip lock when a sailor and a nurse, sculpture at left, rejoiced over the end of World War II.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. High temperatures in the low 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 60s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the high 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. High temperatures in the high 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. High temperatures in the high 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms. High temperatures in the high 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with rainshowers. High temperatures in the high 70s and tomorrow morning's low in the high 50s.

Hungary: Sunny. High temperatures in the low 90s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 60s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in the mid 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the mid 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. High temperatures in the high 80s and tomorrow morning's low in the low 70s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. High tempera-

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. High temperatures in the low 70s

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. High temperatures in the low 80s to low





Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. High temperatures in

For current weather watches, warnings,

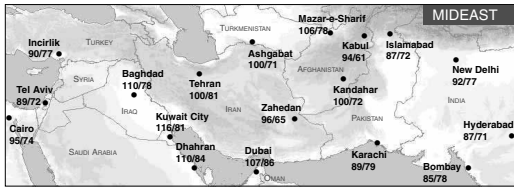
For current weather watches, warnings and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	0628	0629
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0620	0622
Sunset (Baghdad)	1945	1944
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2038	2036

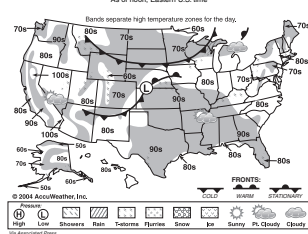
			
First qtr 09/23	Full Moon 09/30	Last qtr 09/06	New Moon 09/14

MIDEAST



THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide
every Saturday to find
Realtors at your new station.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.
STARS AND STRIPES.

FACES 'N' PLACES



Tom Cruise stars as an assassin in the new film "Collateral." Cruise says he was eager to explore what he calls his character's conviction that he's "really just taking out society's garbage."

Cruise looks into heart of an assassin for latest role

By TERRY LAWSON

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Tom Cruise wants to tell about a film he thinks you should see.

It's directed by Michael Mann, and it costsars Jamie Foxx. "The director's cut of 'Ali,'" enthuses Cruise, mounting a detailed argument about why Mann's reconstructed version of his 2001 Muhammad Ali biography, recently released on DVD, is the best movie he's seen all year.

"A lot of times, this director's cut business is just about getting people to buy something they already own. But this is one of those deals where Michael's original vision for that film got compromised along the way, and he had the opportunity to go back and get it exactly right. And it's just so much better."

Not that Cruise isn't excited about "Collateral," his own film with director Mann and costar Foxx, which opened stateside Aug. 6. It's a thriller about a Los Angeles cab driver, played by Foxx, who is essentially taken hostage by a passenger with an agenda far different than the usual fare.

Vincent, played by Cruise, is an assassin employed by a drug-trafficking network to take out potential witnesses before indictments are handed up. His assignment must be completed in one night, meaning he needs a wheelman who not only can get him where he needs to go but who can also keep his wits while fully expecting to be Vincent's final victim.

"Michael and I had known each other since about 1986, when we took this rafting trip together," says Cruise. "We're both into what some people call extreme sports but are actually ways of challenging yourself while having a very good time. I wanted to work with him, though, for the obvious reason: He makes great movies."

Mann also makes movies for leading men willing to play against type: Daniel Day-Lewis in "The Last of the Mohicans," Russell Crowe in "The Insider" and Will Smith in "Ali." Cruise has played his share of men in conflict, and

has not shied away from decidedly nonheroic roles in films such as "Magnolia" and "Rain Man." But he had never played a cold-blooded killer like Vincent.

"I wanted the character to look very different from Tom Cruise," says Mann, who showed his leading man a version of himself on a computer mock-up with a gray brush cut and salt-and-pepper stubble.

"I wanted to rough up the surface appearance and give him a kind of anonymity. (Tom and I) spent months prior to filming building him into a very dynamic, tangible character, none of which is discussed specifically in the movie. But it is there in everything he does."

"From the outside, Vincent is completely comfortable in his skin, with who he is and what he does. And that kind of confidence, coupled with the skill to back it up, will always be attractive to a lot of people."

Tom Cruise

talking about his character in "Collateral"

begin their interactions with other people, whether it's with their boss, or a member of the family, with the assumption that they are right. And for that reason, they can rationalize some pretty suspect behavior."

"I played Vincent as a professional who thinks he has the answers, and who makes a pretty powerful argument that most people only pretend to care more about society than their own personal lives. You don't play evil, because people like Vincent don't see themselves that way. Besides, that sort of self-certainty can be very seductive and convincing. It's like Churchill said about Hitler, he was glad he had never met the man, because he just might have been charmed by him."

Rolling Stone drummer treated for cancer

Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts is being treated for throat cancer, a spokesman for the band said Saturday.

Watts, 63, was diagnosed in June and has completed four weeks of a six-week course of radiotherapy at London's Royal Marsden Hospital.

"He is expecting to make a full recovery and start work with the rest of the band later in the year," the spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Watts' treatment had not interfered with any tour or recording plans for the Stones, who have been "re-laxing between work commitments" after a world tour last year.

Known as the most laid-back member of the band, he joined more than 40 years ago. Watts also has performed with a variety of jazz ensembles.

Prince's studio reopened for business

Prince's Paisley Park Studios, where the mysterious pop star and other bands have recorded, has reopened for business.

Paisley Park has largely been closed since 1996, though Prince continued to record and perform there.

A reception marking the studio's reopening Thursday was attended by members of the local film, music and advertising communities.

"We're essentially hanging the 'open' sign out front tonight," new general manager Ron Schofield said.

Paisley Park has newly digitized and upgraded recording and editing rooms available for musicians to rent.

Since the complex opened in 1987 in Minneapolis, R.E.M., George Benson and others recorded there, and Barry Manilow, the Bee Gees and Steve Miller used the studio to rehearse for concert tours.



Prince

Lil' Kim says trial is 'witch hunt'

Rapper Lil' Kim, whose perjury trial is set for early next year in New York, says the charges against her are a "witch hunt against the hip hop industry."

Prosecutors say she lied to a grand jury investigating a 2001 shooting allegedly involving members of her entourage. One man from a rival rap group was injured in the shooting.

Her former manager and co-defendant, Damon Butler, has been indicted for allegedly shooting a weapon during the incident and is serving a prison term on unrelated weapons charges.

Lil' Kim, whose real name is Kimberly Jones, is accused of telling the grand jury that Butler was not present during the 2001 shooting. She is charged with conspiracy, perjury and obstruction.

"I am completely innocent of the charges I have been accused of, and am very confident that my co-defendants and I will win this case in the courtroom," she said in a statement. "This case is a witch hunt against the hip hop industry."

Dutch princess files for divorce

The Netherlands' Princess Margarita, who last year aired a dirty laundry during a fight with her aunt Queen Beatrix, is now divorcing the husband who was at the center of it all.

The spat made headlines in the Netherlands for weeks last summer as a Dutch magazine published a series of tell-all interviews with Margarita.

She accused the Royal House of abusing its power to obtain confidential information about her husband and damage his reputation. The Royal House denied the charges, but was embarrassed by Margarita's tales of drinking and philandering by other members of the family.

Margarita separated from her husband, Edwin de Roy van Zuydewijn, earlier this year.

Dutch national broadcaster NOS Margarita now plans to divorce Van Zuydewijn, citing Margarita's lawyers.



Princess Margarita

Horoscope

We're in the thick of a cosmic pattern called the mystic rectangle, which features out-of-the-blue occurrences that must be experienced to be believed. The unpredictable nature of this — you could go either way — you could be pleased by happy surprises or completely caught off guard and annoyed. Take on an overwhelmingly positive attitude.

Joyce Jilison



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 18). Finances improve steadily all year long. Your lifestyle upgrades in the next seven weeks help to build your confidence. Social appearances cement your reputation in October.

Couples find new common ground in a joint venture in November. Singles explore new relationships. The connection shared with Capricorn or Sagittarius is very special.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

To implement your plans, you must get connected. You've got no idea who can help and who can't until you put the word out. Those in the know can educate you in one conversation, whereas show-offs waste hours of your time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

It's difficult to keep a sunny attitude until you're sure that legal and financial details are handled. Keep the proper perspective. If you can actually enjoy your life during this transition, you're highly evolved.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Success depends on promoting yourself. This can be done in a subtle way through self-confidence and a few well-chosen words. You don't have to push. Create a mystery, and then, let others lead the way with their questions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Usually, you're able to hide emotions under that hard shell of yours, but today, you're nearly transparent. Since your feelings are obvious to others whether you want them to be or not, you may as well speak your heart.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before you let a relationship drift into the land of serious commitment, consid-

er your needs at this point in your life and how the other person fits into the picture. Try not to make any decision unconsciously. This is a challenge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Normally a reasonable person, you're flirting with disaster today. You may be fascinated by someone who is unavailable — a down-right dangerous choice. Allow yourself the thrill of fantasy, but by all means, don't get involved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You're presented with the opportunity your bank account needs. But if you don't think you'll enjoy the work, don't say "yes." You'd be put on the spot tonight, but at least you won't have time to get nervous.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Questions of integrity surface, and you do what's honorable. You'll get what you project now — the universe is extremely fair. At work, pause and deal directly with what bothers you instead of going on in spite of it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

There's plenty of give and take in a relationship. Many practicalities are being handled beautifully, but a logical love affair could never keep your attention for long. Without romance, a relationship becomes a bore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

When you resist what's going on around you, you cause stress. Be loose. When people feel comfortable in your presence, the resolution of problems is effortless. Friendships worth keeping may require you to say you're sorry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You'll be fine-tuning your skills. The best and most fulfilling way to accomplish this is to teach others. You could even stumble upon a new source of income in the process. You're a natural-born instructor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

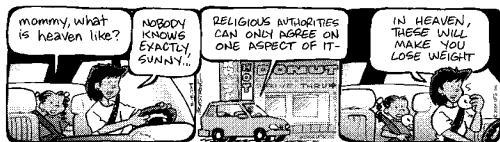
There are limits to what you're willing to do in relationships. Your freedom is precious, and the need to spread your wings is stronger now. If you still feel autonomous within the boundaries of a relationship, it's just right.

Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



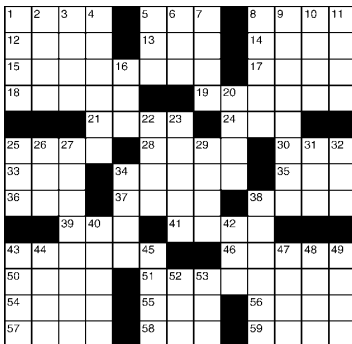
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Kitten's e.g.
- 5 Kitten's comment
- 8 Scored
- 12 Lead-in to bird or plane
- 13 "— Little Teapot"
- 14 Growlup nits
- 15 Jim Bouton book
- 17 Shrek is one
- 18 Military hat
- 19 Pulverized
- 21 Footnote abbr.
- 24 Lump
- 25 Chip in a chip
- 28 Expression
- 30 Irritate
- 33 Dove's comment (a rope)
- 34 Secure
- 35 Complete
- 36 Kreskin's claim
- 37 Author Kingsley
- 38 Menial worker
- 39 Adipose tissue
- 41 Mets' home
- 43 Al and unau
- 46 Bomber
- 50 Sound of contentment
- 51 Shows off on the surfboard
- 54 Con
- 55 Time of your life
- 56 Oklahoma city
- 57 Writer Angulo
- 58 Tense the lawn
- 59 Dresses in

Down

- 1 Parent shares
- 2 BYU location
- 3 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
- 4 "The Jazz Singer," notably
- 5 "O Sole —"
- 6 Ostich's kin
- 7 Near the treasure
- 8 "101 Dalmatians" actress
- 9 Congratulatory gesture
- 10 Farm fraction
- 11 Saxophonist's silver
- 16 Watch chain
- 20 Host
- 22 Particular
- 23 Where heros are made
- 25 Expert
- 26 Ph. bk. entries
- 27 Radio format
- 29 Impetuous
- 31 Carnival city
- 32 Barbie's ex
- 33 Dog owner's chore
- 38 Analyzed
- 39 grammatically
- 40 Places in the heart
- 42 Early bird?
- 43 Unwanted e-mail
- 44 Moth variety
- 45 Charlatan
- 47 Periodic Table datum (Abbr.)
- 48 Special aptitude
- 49 Tackles
- 52 teammates
- 52 In olden days
- 53 Fresh

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-18

CRYPTOQUIP

LJ N YNLTH HUKNTLNKUY
 NRNLQYK YIAUIQU, L
 RDUYV VID ALRFK YNV

KFNK'Y NQ NVU JIH NQ NVU.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LONG-LOST SINATRA
 SONG CONCERNING THE WAY HE MADE
 EASTER EGGS: "I DYED IT MY WAY."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals A

Inappropriate act sign of insecurity

Dear Abby: My boyfriend, "Ron," and I have been together for six years and have lived together for two. We are planning to be married.

Sometimes Ron meets me for lunch near work. When he drops me off, he insists on kissing me in front of the building, a long, lingering tongue kiss. I think it is inappropriate.

Whenever I try to pull away, or explain why it makes me uncomfortable, Ron gets upset and says I must be ashamed of him or something. That's not true!

I would simply rather keep such displays of affection confined to our house, or at least away from my workplace. Am I wrong?

— Embarrassed in Boston

Dear Embarrassed: You are right to be embarrassed. What your boyfriend is doing isn't showing affection; it is displaying the extent of his insecurity.

By kissing you in such an inappropriate way, he is trying to show others the control he has over you. Please consider putting marriage on "hold" until your boyfriend grows up, which may be never.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I am divorced and the father of two girls, ages 6 and 5. I am actively involved in their lives. My ex-wife, "Erin," is a teacher, so I pick the kids up from school and watch them until dinner every night.

Erin and I separated in 2001. She started dating the following July, and by August, my 6-year-old told me that Mom's "Friend from high school" was sleeping in her bed and taking showers in the morning. I was furious.

I told Erin that what she did when I had the kids was her business. But when the kids were with her, her boyfriend should not spend the night. She told me

her bedroom was no longer any of my business. The sleepovers continued, and in November, Erin informed me that her boyfriend had officially moved in. She claims that this is a loving and committed relationship—but but they have broken up twice that I know of in the past six months.

I am legally powerless to fight this, but I think that in addition to being confusing and unsettling for our daughters, Erin is setting a bad example.

— Legally Powerless

Dear Powerless: Your ex-wife is setting a bad example and sending a poor message to her impressionable daughters. When the girls are older, Erin may come to regret her stance on this. Although you are legally powerless in this situation, I hope that you will continue to be a stabilizing influence in your daughters' lives, because it appears they are going to need one.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can inquire at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter each across square, to form four ordinary words.

TEWCIC

CEHOP

TARIPE

WHERDS

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

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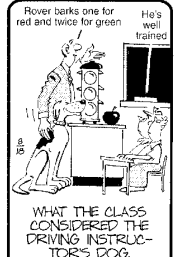
Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Agrillon



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Answer: _____

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Answer: _____

Answer: _____

Father struggles over legal issue

Dear Annie: When I met my ex-wife, she had a beautiful 7-month-old baby. "Maddie" thinks I am her father. When Maddie was old enough to ask why her last name was different, her mother told her it was because we were not yet married when she was born. She is 11 now.

My ex and I had two children together, "Johnny," now 8, and "Susie," now 5. Because Maddie is not biologically mine, it was determined during the divorce mediation that I was not financially responsible for her in any way, yet her mother insists she be included in my visitation with Johnny and Susie.

Here's the problem: The custody agreement says Johnny and Susie stay with me for seven days, then they stay with their mother. I pay child support for Johnny and Susie, but I also buy clothes and food for Maddie when she is with me. This seems

Annie's Mailbox



unfair. My attorney told me there was no way for me to demand child support for Maddie, since she is not biologically mine. If I ask her mother to start giving me money, I know she will refuse. My only other option is to stop including Maddie during visitation with the other two children. How can I do this without making a huge mess and destroying all the children's lives?

— Struggling in the Midwest

Dear Struggling: Please, please, do not abandon Maddie. You are the only father she has ever known. If she were her biological child, you would be paying child support as well as providing food and clothing when she visits. We think you are getting a bargain—a loving child for half the cost.

We know this seems unfair to you, but we believe it's worth it. Perhaps you could suggest to your ex-wife that she ask for

child support from Maddie's biological father and give some of that to you for the girl's upkeep. Maddie eventually may learn about her paternity, but it is important that she knows YOU love her regardless.

Dear Annie: If a woman was recently exposed to condyloma acuminatum (a form of genital wart), is there a treatment to stop the virus before it gets established? I had this condition for two months but have now been treated.

— Ralph

Dear Ralph: According to the American Social Health Association (ashastd.org), current available treatments are not designed to prevent the virus from becoming established, although new vaccines are being developed.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"I wonder if the angels ever play connect-the-stars."

GRAFFITI

Divorced men are nus-beens

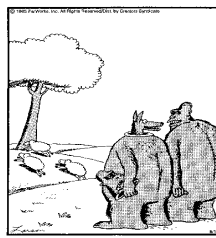
MA 8/18

Dennis the Menace



"YEAH, CALENDARS ARE LIKE REALLY SLOW CLOCKS."

The Far Side



"I hope I think you've hit on something there! Sheep's clothing! Sheep's clothing! ... Let's get out of these gorilla suits!"

Non Sequitur



"WELL, I SUPPOSE IT WAS INEVITABLE..."

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

All times Central time zone. AFN: AFN-Africa; PACN: PACN-Pacific/Korea; SPN: SPN-Spanish. All times subject to change without notice.

Television

Baseball — N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 9 a.m. Wednesday (day); SPT, Montreal at San Francisco, 9 a.m. Wednesday (day); N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 1 a.m. Thursday; SPT, Montreal at San Diego, 4 a.m. Thursday; N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Thursday (day).

Golf — World Golf Championship NCI Invitational, 9 a.m. Monday (day); PGA Tour, 10 a.m. Monday (day).

Olympics (Note: Telecasts listed as "live" are scheduled to be broadcast live. Telecasts of NBC's tape-delayed coverage of events are scheduled to conclude early that day, turn to local TV outlets for real-time coverage).

6:30 a.m. Wednesday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Wednesday (AFN-A) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

2 a.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's gymnastics: Individual all-around final; Swimming: men's 200m breaststroke final, men's 100m freestyle final, women's 200m butterfly final, women's 400m freestyle final, women's 200m freestyle final, women's 100m butterfly final.

5 a.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's volleyball: USA vs. Dominican Republic; Cycling: women's time trial.

1 p.m. Thursday (SPT) — Men's basketball: USA vs. Australia (live); Men's water polo: USA vs. Australia (live).

6:30 p.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Swimming: men's 100m freestyle final, men's 200m butterfly final, women's 200m butterfly final, women's 400m freestyle final, women's 200m freestyle final, women's 100m butterfly final.

2 a.m. Friday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. Australia (live); Men's water polo: USA vs. Australia (live).

6:30 p.m. Friday (AFN-A, PAC) — Swimming: men's 100m freestyle final, men's 200m butterfly final, women's 200m butterfly final, women's 400m freestyle final, women's 200m freestyle final, women's 100m butterfly final.

2 a.m. Friday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. Australia (live); Men's water polo: USA vs. Australia (live).

6:30 a.m. Saturday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Saturday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

2 a.m. Sunday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

6:30 a.m. Sunday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Sunday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

2 a.m. Monday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

6:30 a.m. Monday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Monday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

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2 a.m. Wednesday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

6:30 a.m. Wednesday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Wednesday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

2 a.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

6:30 a.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Thursday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

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6:30 a.m. Saturday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

1 p.m. Saturday (AFN-A, PAC) — Women's basketball: USA vs. South Korea (live); Women's swimming: Track and field women's shot put final; Women's beach volleyball: McNeely/Young (USA) vs. Gentry/der-Bentzen/Kuhn (USA) (live); Cycling: men's time trial.

2 a.m. Sunday (AFN-A, PAC) — Men's volleyball: USA vs. Netherlands.

Oakland	0	0	1,000	33	30
San Diego	0	0	1,000	24	18
San Diego	0	0	1,000	17	21
Denver	0	0	1,000	17	21

NATIONAL CONFERENCE	East	West	FC	PA	FA
N.Y. Giants	1	0	1,000	33	30
Washington	1	0	1,000	24	18
Philadelphia	1	0	1,000	17	21

South	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Carolina	1	0	1,000	33	30
New Orleans	1	0	1,000	24	18
Tampa Bay	1	0	1,000	17	21

North	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Chicago	1	0	1,000	33	30
Detroit	1	0	1,000	24	18
Green Bay	1	0	1,000	17	21

West	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Seattle	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco	1	0	1,000	17	21

Friday's games	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville	1	0	1,000	33	30
Baltimore at Philadelphia	1	0	1,000	24	18

Saturday's games	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Detroit at Cleveland	1	0	1,000	33	30
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis	1	0	1,000	24	18
Tennessee at Houston	1	0	1,000	17	21

Sunday's games	East	West	FC	PA	FA
New England at Cincinnati	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Chicago	1	0	1,000	24	18
Dallas at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Monday, Aug. 23	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Pittsburgh at Buffalo	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18

Friday, Aug. 27	East	West	FC	PA	FA
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets	1	0	1,000	33	30
Washington at L.A. Rams	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Minnesota	1	0	1,000	17	21

Saturday, Aug. 28	East	West	FC	PA	FA
Buffalo at Cleveland	1	0	1,000	33	30
Minnesota at Tampa Bay	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Sunday, Aug. 29	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Monday, Aug. 30	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Tuesday, Aug. 31	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Wednesday, Sept. 1	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Thursday, Sept. 2	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Friday, Sept. 3	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Saturday, Sept. 4	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Sunday, Sept. 5	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Monday, Sept. 6	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Tuesday, Sept. 7	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Wednesday, Sept. 8	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Thursday, Sept. 9	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Friday, Sept. 10	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Saturday, Sept. 11	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Sunday, Sept. 12	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Monday, Sept. 13	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Tuesday, Sept. 14	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Wednesday, Sept. 15	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Thursday, Sept. 16	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Friday, Sept. 17	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Saturday, Sept. 18	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Sunday, Sept. 19	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Monday, Sept. 20	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Tuesday, Sept. 21	East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	33	30
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	24	18
San Francisco at Oakland	1	0	1,000	17	21

Wednesday, Sept. 22		East	West	FC	PA	FA
San Francisco at Oakland		1	0			

Big takers ready for some on-field action

Owens, Lewis try downplaying feud

BY BOB BROOKOVER
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — The verbose conflict between Terrell Owens and Ray Lewis moves to the football field Friday night when the Eagles play the Baltimore Ravens in the second preseason game for both teams.

Owens' stay with the Ravens lasted only slightly longer than Britney Spears' marriage to childhood friend Jason Alexander, but the wide receiver's messy annulment from the team has been a lot more public.

After competing with Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb in the recruitment of Owens during the Pro Bowl in Hawaii, Lewis, the Ravens' fiery linebacker, became bitter when Owens fought a trade from San Francisco to Baltimore and eventually landed in Philadelphia via a three-way trade among the teams.

Ever since, Lewis and Owens have been involved in what the wide receiver called a war of words.

When training camps opened, the conflict intensified. Owens responded to Lewis' remark that he would be looking for him over the middle of the teams play by saying that the Ravens' all-pro linebacker was "not the hardest hitter that ever played the game of football," and that he would not "stay away" from any confrontation.



Eagles receiver Terrell Owens finally has something he doesn't want to talk about — playing against Baltimore and taking his war of words with Ray Lewis to the field.

"I never proclaimed to be the hardest hitter," Lewis said when told of Owens' response. "Second and foremost, tell T.O. to keep my name out of his mouth. I don't care nothing about this guy. Why does he need me to make his reputation? Tell him I'm tired of that. I play football. And, sooner or later, no matter how much he talks

about what he's not scared to do, he still has to line up and play football."

They line up and play in a few days, so it was no surprise that the line of questioning fired at Owens on Monday concentrated on Lewis and the Ravens.

Both sides tried to play some diplomacy.

"For whatever reason, he's obviously upset," Owens said. "I've kind of put that behind me since training camp, and we're going to go out there and work on some things we need to work on with our offense."

OK, but isn't Owens concerned about Lewis or some other Ravens player targeting him for a big hit?

"I guess you have to be aware of it," Owens said. "They may, but it's going to

be a situation where we're going to play football. There are going to be situations where they probably have some shots at me and in the running game I can return the favor. We're just going to play football. That's how it's going to be."

Asked by the Baltimore Sun about facing Owens for the first time since the wide receiver shunned the Ravens, Lewis downplayed the feud.

"God bless him," Lewis said. "I hope his career prospers, and I hope they have a great season."

And what if they meet on the field during Friday's game?

"We're on a football field, so if he catches a ball in my area, we'll deal with that way," Lewis said. "That's just football."

"We're on a football field, so if he catches a ball in my area, we'll deal with it that way. That's just football."

Ray Lewis
Ravens linebacker

Other Ravens have been involved in the Owens bashing as well.

Safety Ed Reed pointed out that Owens caught only three passes for 23 yards in San Francisco's lopsided 44-6 loss to the Ravens last year.

"T.O. is just another guy," Reed said. "Everybody is boosting up T.O., but I don't know what he did. It's not like he won the Super Bowl or anything like that. T.O. is a nobody. We shut him down: three for 23 yards. He's nothing."

Owens insisted he has no grudge against Lewis.

"Everybody knows we've had a little war of words, but these are issues that you pray about, and I have no grudges against Ray," he said. "I'm not

sure how he feels about me, but as far as I'm concerned, he's my friend. Everybody knows Ray is a high-energy guy. He's going to play that way and he's going to talk that way. He plays the same way whether it's the Pro Bowl or the regular season. I'm also going to play hard as well."

Of course, Friday is just a preseason meeting, and Owens and Lewis will only be on the field for no more than half the game. The teams meet in the regular season Oct. 31.

"I hope this is the last time we have to revisit this," Owens said. "I just want to go out and play ball. If we can get all the questions out today, then we can eliminate it during the course of the regular season."

Winslow, Garcia haven't changed Browns' luck yet

BY JOE MILICIA
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — All the changes the Cleveland Browns made in the offseason — from their front office to their roster — didn't change the way they played in their first preseason game.

Quarterback Jeff Garcia looked like Tim Couch, getting sacked on two of the first three plays. Penalties killed any momentum the Browns had on offense and the defense gave up big plays.

Just like last season.

"We know we stunk it up on Saturday. We have to get better," wide receiver Dennis Northcutt said.

Kellen Winslow Jr.'s most notable play in his debut was a personal foul for shoving Titans safety Lamont Thompson.

The fiery Winslow was at it again in practice Monday.

After catching a pass during a non-contact drill, Winslow turned around and lowered his left shoulder into defensive back Roosevelt Williams, slamming him to the ground.

"I think it was very unprofessional," Williams said. "Everybody has a passion for the game. They want to go hard and go fast. I do, too. For him to lower his shoulder on me . . . we're in cover 2. I see him before he sees me. I just laid down and waited there."

The Browns would not make



Browns tight end Kellen Winslow Jr.'s most notable play in his debut was a personal foul. He continued his aggressive play in practice on Monday by leveling defensive back Roosevelt Williams, but he has done little to improve Cleveland's performance.

Winslow available to reporters after practice.

"I don't think he intentionally zeroed out Roosevelt Williams and attacked his manhood," Browns coach Butch Davis said. "I think he was just practicing fast and just surprised Roosevelt a little bit."

Northcutt said Winslow is young and needs to learn how to play.

Defensive lineman Gerard Warren also seemed to defend the rookie tight end.

"When I'm on the field, you're

not going to see me get thrown on the ground and slammed down because somebody else is going harder than I am. . . . In that case, I guess Roosevelt just might have been going through the motions," Warren said.

One of the Browns' few bright spots against Tennessee was the running game. But they had tough time running to the left side of the line.

Davis has responded by selecting another starter at left guard.

First it was Chad Benney, then Enoch DeMar, who started the Tennessee game. Now, Paul

Zukauskas will start Saturday against Detroit.

Zukauskas, who started 10 games at right guard last season, said it's critical for him to take advantage of the opportunity.

"Anytime you get that chance and you're in your fourth year, you've really got to take it and run, or you could see yourself out of the NFL," he said.

Zukauskas, at 325 pounds, is bigger than in past seasons. He said he knows the main thing he needs to show Saturday is consistency. He's confident Garcia won't get dropped quickly for two sacks again.

"This is by far the best offense we've had and as far as the offensive line, it's by far the best we've had," he said.

The Browns' defense allowed Titans running back Chris Brown — who was making his first start — to average 7.7 yards per carry. They also played "horrible" on pass defense by Davis' estimation.

Safety Earl Little said there's no confidence loss.

"It was just a preseason game," he said. "Right now we're on a matter how people look at it and write about it."

Union files grievance over Carter's release

The Associated Press

The NFL Players Association has gotten involved in Quincy Carter's release by the Dallas Cowboys.

The union filed a grievance over the release Aug. 4 of the quarterback who started 16 games and one playoff contest for the Cowboys last season, claiming the team had violated the collective bargaining agreement in releasing him.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, however, said he was willing to answer any questions from the union or the NFL's management council about the decision to cut Carter.

"Basically the decisions were wrong because of what we wanted to do at that position this year and



in the future," Jones said Monday. "They were well, in my view, within the area that I'm comfortable with regarding being able to defend it."

Jones didn't elaborate.

The case would be heard by professor Stephen Burbank of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The union said the first step would be taking depositions from Jones and coach Bill Parcells.

The team has not given a reason for Carter's release, although there were widespread reports that he had failed a drug test.

"You don't go from being a starting, playoff quarterback in this league to someone not good enough to make the 80-man roster the next summer," Richard Berthelsen, the union's general counsel, said in a statement.

Raiders: Offensive lineman Robert Gallery, Oakland's top draft pick chosen No. 2 overall in April's draft, suffered a right elbow injury during practice Monday.

Gallery was taken to a hospital for tests. X-rays were negative. Gallery met with a team doctor and said the elbow was sprained and that he didn't know how long he would be sidelined.

"We'll see how it comes along and get back out there when I can deal with it," he said. "It's not a big deal."

Gallery was participating in a half-line blocking drill when he got hurt. He was working with the second-team line, but he's expected to be the starting left tackle this season.

Gallery didn't start in the Raiders' 33-30 exhibition victory over San Francisco on Saturday, but he played with the first team.

Dolphins: Injury-plagued Miami signed 32-year-old wide receiver Antonio Freeman on Monday.

Freeman had 14 catches last season for Green Bay.

The Dolphins lost offseason acquisition David Boston for the season on Aug. 6 with a torn tendon in his knee. Kendall Newson, who had moved up to third receiver,

tore his left Achilles' tendon Saturday night.

Falcons: Will Overstreet was placed on injured reserve Monday, the third straight year the defensive end's season has ended early due to a shoulder injury.

Overstreet, a third-round pick from Tennessee in 2002, had season-ending operations on his left shoulder each of the past two years and reinjured the shoulder July 31.

Vikings: Starting cornerback Brian Williams is expected to miss at least two weeks with a sprained left knee and might not be available for the Vikings' season opener Sept. 12 against Dallas. Williams was injured during Saturday's exhibition game against Arizona.

Simms outshines Palmer

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The sharpest young quarterback on the field was Chris Simms, not Carson Palmer.

Simms, the second-year pro competing with Brian Griese for Tampa Bay's No. 2 job, completed 12 of 15 passes for 110

yards to help the Buccaneers to a 20-6 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday night.

"So far, so good," the son of former New York Giants quarter-

back Phil Simms said.

"It was great to get out there and play someone else besides our defense. I had a lot of fun and definitely got some good experience."

Palmer, the first pick in the 2003 draft, made his first start since college for the Bengals. The Heisman Trophy winner threw an interception on the game's opening possession and left the game after leading his team to a field goal on the other series he worked.

Jon Kitna replaced him and was 7-for-15 for 58 yards. The Bengals wasted an opportunity to score a touchdown when Kitna lofted a perfectly thrown ball to a wide-open T.J. Houshmandzadeh, but the receiver failed to stay in bounds in the end zone.

"Our mistakes pretty much told the story," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said, noting that his team hurt itself with dropped passes and turnovers.

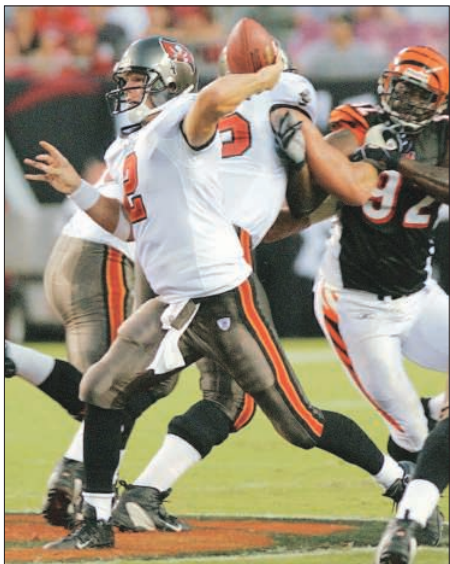
The coach, however, thought Palmer managed the offense well.

"Stats aren't football," Lewis said.

Palmer gave himself a favorable review. "I'm not happy with the outcome, but we did some good things with the mistakes," Palmer said. "I felt weird, but I felt great. It's just been so long since I played in an actual game."

Chris Perry, Cincinnati's first-round pick this year, also got off to a shaky start. The running back fumbled on his first carry, setting up the first of two TDs that Earnest Graham scored for Tampa Bay.

The preseason opener was delayed two days because of Hurricane Charley. "I've seen quite a few hurricanes in my lifetime," Brooks said. "Obviously, the pictures tell a thousand words, but to see it in person tells even more. Your heart goes



Tampa Bay's Chris Simms (2) completed 12 of 15 passes for 110 yards against Cincinnati on Monday. Quarterback Carson Palmer, the Bengals' top pick in 2003, made his first NFL start and completed three of eight passes for 74 yards and one interception.

out."

Palmer completed three of eight passes for 74 yards. After Ronde Barber's interception spoiled his first series, the second-year pro led an eight-play, 60-yard drive that produced Shayne Graham's 36-yard field goal.

Perry, the 26th pick in this year's draft, missed the last 11 days of camp before ending his contract holdout last week.

The former Michigan star fumbled after gaining 1 yard to his own 19 on his first carry. Tampa Bay's DeVone Claybrooks recovered, setting up Earnest Graham's TD that made it 13-3.

Perry finished with 19 yards and four

carries.

Brad Johnson started at quarterback for Tampa Bay and completed all three of his passes on the only series he worked, moving the Bucs from their 37 to the Cincinnati 2 before setting for Gramatica's 20-yard field goal.

Griese replaced Simms, a third-round draft pick in 2003, midway through the third quarter.

The former Denver starter was 7-for-11 for 96 yards and directed the fourth-quarter drive that produced Graham's second touchdown.

Wide receivers Tim Brown and Joey Galloway started and played one snap in their

Tampa Bay debuts. Bucs running back Charlie Garner sat out with a sore hamstring.

Cincinnati receiver Chad Johnson played sparingly and had two receptions for 32 yards. Bengals third-string quarterback Casey Bramlet was 6-for-11 for 41 yards.

Seahawks 21, Packers 3

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Fourth-string quarterback Seneca Wallace led Seattle on two touchdown drives and the Seahawks took advantage of Tim Couch's dismal debut for Green Bay on Monday night.

Matt Hasselbeck, who wasn't bothered by much of a pass rush, completed five of nine passes for 56 yards for Seattle before giving way to Wallace, who was 14-for-26 for 135 yards and two touchdowns.

Green Bay's Brett Favre completed five of seven passes for 43 yards in two series, the first of which ended on Ryan Longwell's 47-yard field goal and the second in a punt after overthrowing Donald Driver on what would have been a 46-yard touchdown.

With Seattle's No. 2 and 3 quarterbacks, Trent Diller and Brock Huard, out with back spasms, Wallace played most of the game. His 2-yard touchdown toss to Jereme Urban made it 14-3 just before halftime and his 19-yard completion to Chris Davis set up Kerry Carter's 1-yard TD plunge with 3:44 left in the game.

Couch finished 2-for-11 for 18 yards and was sacked twice. Couch, a former No. 1 draft pick who served as Cleveland's starter most of the past five years, wasn't released by the Browns in time to get a jump-start on Green Bay's intricate offense in the June minicamp, and he has struggled during training camp.

Couch repeatedly overthrew or underthrew his receivers, was indecisive in the pocket and unable to shake a troublesome hitch in his delivery. He often threw right into the face of defensive linemen bearing down on him.

Couch's day came to a finish on a series in which he held the ball too long and was sacked, then threw right into the swatting hands of defensive end Omar Nazeel as he backedpedaled from pressure near his own goal line.

The loudest cheer from the crowd of 69,718 came when Doug Pederson replaced Couch in the third quarter. Pederson completed five of 10 passes for 55 yards.

The Packers may not admit it, but it was evident Monday they miss Mike McKenzie, their recalcitrant cornerback who has skipped all offseason workouts in search of a trade.

McKenzie's replacement in the starting lineup, Michael Hawthorne, surrendered two touchdowns on third-and-long situations on Seattle's first touchdown drive, and first-round draft pick Ahmad Carroll was used for interference, seguing Mark Roman's interception in the second quarter.

Mientkiewicz moved to second

Former Gold Glove 1B shifted in Red Sox's win over Jays

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Terry Francona's unusual tweak to Boston's lineup left the Red Sox wondering if their manager made a mistake.

Former Gold Glove first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz started at second base for the first time in his career in Boston's 8-4 victory over Toronto on Monday night.

"There was definitely a double-team when we looked at the lineup," first baseman Kevin Millar said.

Francona made the move in order to load Boston's lineup with left-handed hitters, and also because of an injury to third baseman Kevin Youkilis.

It had the Red Sox players joking about what other lineup changes Francona might have in store, with Millar suggesting unusual spots for himself, star outfielder Manny Ramirez and pitcher Curt Schilling.

"I think Manny's catching, Schilling's playing left and I'm pitching tomorrow," Millar said.

Mientkiewicz played second for the second time since coming to the majors in 1998. The 2001 Gold Glove winner at first base for Minnesota had played second for one inning — last season.

Mientkiewicz found himself right in the middle of things in the second when he was knocked to the ground by Carlos Delgado's elbow after fielding Frank Catalanotto's grounder. Delgado broke



Toronto Blue Jays' Carlos Delgado goes flying after colliding with Boston Red Sox's Doug Mientkiewicz (13) while trying to break up a double play in the second inning in Boston on Monday. Delgado was out on the play. Mientkiewicz was making his first start at second base.

up a potential double play.

"On one hand, he played the game the way it's supposed to be played," Mientkiewicz said. "It was kind of hard. I just didn't appreciate the way he did it to me. He knows I'm not a second baseman. I wouldn't have done it that way to a guy playing his first game at second."

Delgado said he was just trying to break up the play.

"He was in the baseline," Delgado said. "I'm going to go in so he doesn't get the double play."

Mientkiewicz made a backhanded pickup of Vernon Wells' grounder in the first, stepped on second and threw to first for an inning-ending double play.

Derek Lowe (11-10) allowed

four runs — three earned — in seven innings for the win. The Red Sox have scored at least seven runs in 10 of Lowe's victories, getting nine or more on eight occasions.

Keith Foulke got six outs for his 20th save in 25 chances.

In other AL games Monday:

Athletics 3, Orioles 1: Mark Redman (9-9) pitched eight innings of six-hit ball, and visiting Oakland used a three-run fifth inning to defeat Baltimore.

Rangers 5, Indians 2: At Arlington, Texas, Brian Jordan hit a tiebreaking homer off C.C. Sabathia (9-7) in the sixth and the Rangers extended their winning streak to four games.

Ward, Jones, Pujols provide pop in wins

The Associated Press

Darley Ward, Albert Pujols and Chipper Jones had big nights at the plate at the expense of National League pitchers.

Ward drove in six runs and fell a single short of his second cycle of the season in the Pittsburgh Pirates' 8-7, 10-inning victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Monday night.

He went 3-for-6 in his first game off the disabled list, but struck out with the bases loaded

in the 10th — failing in a bid to join Babe Herman of the 1931 Brooklyn Dodgers as the only players to hit for the cycle twice in a season.

"It was a lot harder than the last time," said Ward, who had the cycle and six RBIs on May 26 in St. Louis.

Pujols homered for the fifth time in four games and tied his career high with five RBIs, leading the St. Louis Cardinals to a 10-5 victory over Cincinnati.

Pujols, 9-for-18 with 11 RBIs in the past four games despite playing through painful plantar fasciitis in his left heel, hit a three-run homer in the eighth — his major league-leading 37th of the season — and had two doubles. He also scored his major league-leading 100th and 101st runs, giving him 100 or more in each of his first four major league seasons.

"I learned how to play the game hard and no matter what's bothering me I'm just going to keep pushing," Pujols said.

At San Diego, Jones hit his 300th career homer to lead the Braves to a 5-4 victory over the Padres. With his fifth homer in four games, Jones became the fourth player to reach 300 with the Braves — joining Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews and Dale Murphy.

"Everyone knows how good of a hitter he is," winning pitcher Mike Hampton said. "He's our guy, he's our horse."

Pirates 8, Diamondbacks 7 (10): Jack Wilson's sacrifice fly off Greg Aquino (9-1) in the 10th won it for the visiting Pirates, but Ward's near-cycle was the talk in Pittsburgh's clubhouse.

Ward, who tore a ligament in his right thumb June 25 at Cincinnati and wasn't reinstated until Sunday, hit a three-run triple off Brandon Webb in the fifth, and gave the Pirates a 4-3 lead with a solo shot off Elmer Dessens leading off the eighth. He added a two-run double against Shane Nance in the ninth.

"He's a professional hitter," manager Lloyd McClendon said. "It's nice to have him back in the lineup."

The Diamondbacks scored four times in the ninth to tie it at 7, but still fell to 1-71 when trailing after eight. Koyie Hill had four RBIs for Arizona, which lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

José Mesa (4-1) got the win despite allowing four runs on five hits and a walk.

Cardinals 10, Reds 5: At St. Louis, Pujols hit a two-run double in the first, doubled and scored on a close play in the seventh, and



Pittsburgh Pirates' Darley Ward fell a single short of becoming the second player to hit for the cycle twice in a season in the Pirates' 8-7 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Monday in Phoenix.

hit a three-run homer off John Riedling in the eighth.

Scott Rolen drove in two runs for the Cardinals, giving him a National League-leading 104 RBIs. He had a run-scoring double in the third and an RBI single in the seventh, and has 24 RBIs in his last 26 games.

The Cardinals have won 16 of 20 and led the NL Central by 14 games, their biggest advantage since they were 14 games in front on Sept. 3, 1968, when they won a pennant.

Jeff Suppan (11-6) blanked the Reds until Sean Casey hit his 19th homer with two outs in the sixth.

Braves 5, Padres 4: Jones hit a full-count fastball off Sterling Hitchcock that bounced off the second deck of the Western Metal Supply Co. building beyond the left-field fence and gave Atlanta a 3-0 lead.

It was Jones' 20th of the season, marking the 10th straight year he's reached that mark. He also moved past Ruben Sierra of the New York Yankees into fifth place on the career homers list for switch-hitters.

J.D. Drew and Andrew Jones also homered for the Braves, who won for the ninth time in 12 games.

Hampton (9-8) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings, winning his seventh straight decision.

Marlins 4, Dodgers 2: Miguel Cabrera homered and Mike Lowell singled home the go-ahead run against reliever Darren Dreifort (1-4) in the eighth inning in Paul Lo Duca's return to Los Angeles.

Marlins starter Carl Pavano (13-5) allowed two runs and six hits in 7 1/3 innings, and set a career high for victories.

Florida played their first game at Chavez Ravine since the July 30 trade in which Los Angeles sent Lo Duca, Juan Encarnacion and Guillermo Mota to Florida for Brad Penny, Hae Seop Choi and minor leaguer Bill Murphy.

Giants 8, Expos 5: Pinch-hitter Ricky Ledee hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth and the home-standing Giants took over the NL wild-card lead with their fifth straight victory.

Jason Christiansen (3-2) got the final two outs in the eighth for the win, and Ledee managed only his third hit in 21 at-bats since joining the Giants in a July 30 trade with Philadelphia.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

American men clear the high bar

Silver medal is first since '84

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Blaine Hamm paced like an expectant father. Teammate Guard Young sat calmly, scribbling numbers on a piece of paper. Morgan Hamm bounced like a boxer during warm-ups.

Nervous? Naturally. After two decades and too many disappointments to count, the Americans were down to one routine on the high bar Monday to determine whether they would be in the medals ceremony . . . or just watch it again.

Paul Hamm whipped himself backward over the bar twice, and barely held on the second time. When the routine ended, his score popped up and the nervous energy turned into a celebration.

The U.S. men's gymnastics team won Olympic silver to cap a four-year rebuilding project, taking home its first medal since the boycotted 1984 Games and just the second since 1932.

"Look at this thing," Jason Gatson said, holding the medal and unable to look away. "It's beautiful. I'm going to stare at it all night."

With good reason.

At home, the men long languished in the shadows of the more successful women's program, to say nothing of so many other Olympic sports. Overseas, they were largely considered outsiders, and their fifth-place finishes in the past two Olympics only reinforced that.

For a while in the final, it looked as if this team had been forgotten again. But after faltering in the middle two rotations, Wilson gathered the guys for a pep talk.

"We knew at that point, we had some ground to make up," Hamm said. "Blaine told us, 'Don't worry about anything, just worry about ourselves.'"

The Americans hit their last six routines, on parallel bars and high bar, to push past Romania and finish with 172.933 points.

The Japanese went last and needed to average about 9.5 over three sets on the high bar to win. They did it with ease, winning by 0.888 points.

The Americans applauded the clutch effort, but they also celebrated their own.

"I don't understand whoever said it stinks to get silver, or we lost the gold," Wilson said. "Hey, we won the silver medal. I wouldn't change anything today."

The rebuilding project showed promising signs when the men won silver medals in the world championships in 2001 and 2003. Doing the same in the Olympic finals was anything but easy.

Young and the Hammes took big steps on their vault landings to cap a bad stretch on rings and vault, dropping the Americans from first to a precarious third.

The parallel bars changed that.



Paul Hamm reacts after his routine on the pommel horse during men's gymnastics team finals on Monday. Hamm later sealed the silver medal with a solid performance on the high bar.

Paul Hamm, Wilson and Gatson all scored higher than 9.7. Gatson closed the act with a routine that includes a move named after him in which he grips the bar with his left hand and swings upside down while turning himself completely around.

He did it perfectly, prompting coaches Kevin Manzika and Miles Avery to start high-fiving each other. When the score of 9.825 came up, Gatson slapped hands with his teammates and the crowd started yelling "U-S-A, U-S-A," a chant heard all too infrequently over the years with the men on the mat.

Paul Hamm's closing high-bar routine was less than perfect. He did only two straight blind-release moves instead of his customary three after nearly falling on the second turn.

But it was good enough. His score, a 9.462, clinched the medal and started the celebration.

"It doesn't get harder than that. It doesn't get more dramatic than that," USA Gymnastics President Bob Colarossi said. "To come back out and hit the last six routines like that is unbelievable."

The Romanians led most of the meet until two busted routines on the high bar dropped them to third. Still, it was the country's first Olympic team medal. Like the Americans, the Romanian men can finally shake the feeling of being overshadowed by a superior and more popular women's program.

Nobody in America knew that feeling more intimately than Wilson.

The 11-year veteran of the national team suffered through the disappointments in Sydney and Atlanta, along with many others. But he saw a turnaround coming.

Wilson, 30, rushed back from a severe biceps injury in February, correctly thinking he might finally win a medal.

"It's a lifelong dream," Wilson said. "You've been thinking about it. Wanting it. Sometimes, you want it so bad, it makes you sick."

Gatson shared some of Wilson's pain. The 24-year-old has been one of the country's best gymnasts for the past seven years, but missed lots of time — including the last Olympics — due to a pair of devastating knee injuries.

The Hamm brothers were viewed as the future when they surprisingly made the Olympic team in 2000. The future paid off, and with a more centralized training program and a boost from these games, there could be more.

Young, a surprise member of this team, showed he belonged by opening the meet with a 9.7 floor routine, sticking the landings hard on all three tumbling passes.

When it was over, he let out a scream to celebrate, just the first of many happy moments for the Americans.

"I can't imagine it's completely sunk in," Paul Hamm said. "Maybe in about six weeks I'll finally realize what a great accomplishment this was."

Sprinter Edwards' appeal is denied

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — U.S. sprinter Torri Edwards was knocked out of the Olympics for good Tuesday when an arbitration panel upheld her two-year drug suspension, rejecting her arguments that she took a banned stimulant by accident.

Edwards had been considered a medal contender in the 100 and 200 meters at the Athens Games. She inherited the world championship in the 100 when Kelli White forfeited that crown because of drug use.

She tested positive for nikkethamide at a meet in Martinique on April 24, but blamed the result on a glucose supplement she took because she wasn't feeling well. She said her physician bought the glucose at a store on the Caribbean island, and that she was unaware it contained any banned substances.

The international Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled Tuesday, one day after it held a 5½-hour hearing at which Edwards spoke on her own behalf. The ruling is final.

At the U.S. Olympic trials, Edwards finished second in the 100 in 11.02 seconds, and third in the 200 in 22.39. Her spot in the 100 will go to Gail Devers, who finished fourth at the trials. Her spot in the 200 will go to LaShaunte'a Moore.

Edwards' suspension was announced last Wednesday by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

A first arbitration panel that heard the case said there might have been "exceptional circumstances." But an International Association of Athletics Federations doping review board rejected that argument, relying on the "strict liability" standard that declares athletes responsible for any banned substances found in their bodies.

The IAAF said it was "very pleased" that the CAS panel had accepted the ruling of its doping review board.

Iliadis gives hosts some joy with gold in judo; Japan adds fourth gold in event

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Iliadis Iliadis of Greece thrilled the home crowd Tuesday, beating Roman Gontyuk of Ukraine to win the gold medal in the 51-kilogram class in judo.

Dmitri Nossov of Russia and Flavio Cantu of Brazil shared the bronze.

Florian Wanner of Germany, last year's world champion, lost to Gontyuk in the quarterfinals. Sergei Aschvanden of Switzerland, the runner-up at the world championships, lost to Argentina's Ariel Sganga in the round of 32.

Olympic medals roundup

Japan's Ayumi Tanomura beat Claudia Heilt of Austria to win the women's 63-kilogram division. Japan has won four gold medals and a silver in the first eight judo events.

Driyus Gonzalez Morales of Cuba and Urska Zolnir of Slovenia shared the bronze.

Shooting

Men's double trap: Sheikh Ahmed Al

Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates tied an Olympic record Tuesday, winning the gold medal in double trap shooting.

Al Maktoum scored 189 points, matching the total that Mark Russell of Australia reached in Sydney in 2000. The 40-year-old Al Maktoum was the rest of the field playing for silver in the final round, finishing 10 shots ahead of Rajyavardhan Rathore of India.

Wang Zheng of China won the bronze with a 178.

Americans Glenn Eller, the world champion, and Sgt. 1st Class Brett Erickson failed to qualify for the finals.

Men's 50-meter pistol: Mikhail Nestruev of Russia won the bronze, rebounding from a final-shot loss in the 10-meter air pistol, which prevented him from becoming a double gold medalist.

Nestruev won with a score of 663.3. Jin Jong-ho of South Korea finished at 661.5, and Kim Jong Su of North Korea won the bronze with a 657.7.

World champion: Tan Zongliang of China finished tied for 10th and missed the final round. American Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski also failed to qualify for the finals, finishing tied for 15th in qualifications.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



Mariel Zagunis

Zagunis, Jacobson win medals in fencing

BY DAVID MORDKOFF
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The United States won its first fencing medals in 20 years on Tuesday, including a gold by Mariel Zagunis in the saber competition.

Zagunis beat Tan Xue of China 15-9 in the final, giving the United States two of the three medals. American Sada Jacobson won the bronze, beating Catalina Gheorghita of Romania 15-7.

The United States had never won a medal in women's fencing. The last American medal in the sport was in Los Angeles in 1984, when Peter Westbrook won the bronze in men's saber.

Tan beat Jacobson 15-12 in one semifinal to reach the gold-medal match.

In the quarterfinals, Jacobson beat Leone Perrus of France 15-11. Perrus had knocked out Sada's sister, Emily, 15-13 in the round of 16, preventing the sisters from playing each other.

"I honestly, really expected Emily to make the [final] eight. I had really thought she was going to do it. I had really prepared myself to fence her," Sada Jacobson said. "I'm sorry she didn't win her bout, but when it comes down to it, it was only going to be one of us, anyway."

In men's epee competition, Soren Thompson of San Diego upset No. 2 seed Alfredo Rotta of Italy to reach the quarterfinals, where he lost to Russia's Pavel Kolobkov, the 2000 gold medalist.

Sada Jacobson trailed in the early going against Perrus, but took the lead at 4-3 and never relinquished it, defending her family pride in the process.

Zagunis, of Beaverton, Ore., defeated Elina Jemayeva of Azerbaijan 15-11 to advance to the semifinals.

Sada Jacobson is ranked No. 1 in the world, and Zagunis is ranked fourth. No. 1 is S. No. 5.

Women's saber is the newest of seven six disciplines, and is making its first appearance in the Olympics. The first world championship in women's saber was held in 1999.

Saber is the fastest of fencing's three weapons. The target area is the entire body above the bend in the hips, including the head.

Zagunis in foil and epee, saber fencers can score with either the tip or the edge of the blade.

Phelps wins gold in 200-meter butterfly, 800-meter relay

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Michael Phelps showed more emotion than he has the entire Olympics, punching his fists in the air and letting out a ferocious yell. With the quest to surpass Mark Spitz out of the way, Phelps could savor one of the greatest races in swimming history.

Phelps claimed his second and third gold medals of the Athens Games on Tuesday, winning the 200-meter butterfly and coming back an hour later to lead from the United States' thrilling win over Australia in the 800 freestyle relay.

Swimming roundup

The 19-year-old American started things right for the Americans in the 200-meter butterfly, winning the race by more than 10 seconds, the greatest in history," said Phelps, who helped the Americans avenge a loss to Australia four years ago in Sydney. "Every guy came through."

Phelps and the other U.S. swimmers, Ryan Lochte and Peter Vanderkaay, hopped up and down on the deck as Keller dug

for home. When he touched first — ahead of Thorpe by just 12-hundredths of a second — Phelps showed more emotion than he has at the entire Olympics.

The teenager threw up his arms and screamed toward the jubilant Americans in the stands. Keller pulled himself out of the water and joined his teammates in a raucous hug. A dejected Thorpe walked over and shook hands with Keller.

The Americans won with a time of 7 minutes, 7.33 seconds, the Australians settling for silver in 7:07.46. The Italians were more than four seconds back in third.

In the 200 butterfly, Phelps held off Takashi Yamamoto to win in an Olympic-record 1:54.01. The hard-charging Japanese swimmer took silver (1:54.56), while Britain's Stephen Parry won bronze (1:55.22).

The Americans added to their medal haul when Amanda Beard took gold in the 200 individual medley. The three-time Olympian earned the fifth medal of her career behind Ukraine's Yana Klochkova, who defended the title she won in Sydney with a time of 2:11.14.

Camelia Pop of Romania won gold in the 200 free, coming from behind in an outside lane to beat Federica Pellegrini, a 16-year-old Italian.

Iverson stays in lineup despite broken thumb

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Allen Iverson has a broken right thumb but was in the starting lineup anyway Tuesday night against Greece, hoping the U.S. Olympic basketball team's 92-73 defeat Sunday, then aggravated it during practice Monday.

X-rays on Monday revealed a non-displaced fracture, USA Basketball spokesman Craig Miller said.

"Will it keep me from playing? I hope not, I doubt it. I don't think too much would keep me out of the game," said Iverson, who has a long history of playing despite injuries.

Iverson had the thumb taped, and he dunked with his right

Olympic briefs

hand during warmups. Iverson, who has had problems with his right

thumb in the past, shot 5-for-14, including 1-for-10 from three-point range, with four rebounds, three assists and three turnovers against Puerto Rico. Iverson, one of the team's co-captains, played 31 minutes against Puerto Rico, the most by any American aside from Tim Duncan's 36.

Man fatally shot at party celebrating Thai gold

BANGKOK, Thailand — A celebration for the first Thai woman to win an Olympic gold medal ended in tragedy Tuesday when a man was shot to death at the home of the parents of weightlifter Udomporn Polsak.

Polsak's parents had been hosting about 500 people at their home in the northeastern Nakhon Ratchasima province to celebrate their daughter's victory Sunday in the 17-pound class.

During the celebration, police said, a drunken teenager named Worayuth Wonsantat drew a handgun and fatally shot a girl, giving a 21-year-old man known as Boy Jonkh, who was described as one of Polsak's relatives.

Police Capt. Chalemrak Chainarongsak said he didn't know the exact circumstances.

A report by the state Thai News Agency said a cousin of Udomporn had been wounded and later died, but it was unclear if this was the same person.

Greek sprinters Kenteris, Thanou leave hospital

ATHENS, Greece — Sprinter

Kostas Kenteris declared himself innocent as he left a hospital Tuesday, facing questions from prosecutors, fellow Greeks and the IOC about his missed drug test and motorcycle accident.

"I am suffering a great injustice, and I want to say I never used banned substances," Kenteris said as he got into a car and was driven away by a friend.

Sprinter Katerina Thanou, his training partner, left a short time later, declining to discuss their case with the international Olympic Committee rules on it.

The sprinters have a hearing Wednesday with an IOC disciplinary committee, which wants to know why they missed drug tests in the Olympic village last Thursday.

A few hours later, they were taken to a hospital with cuts and bruises suffered when their motorcycle skidded on a road.

Silence: So far, most events in Athens have not attracted crowds

SILENCE, FROM BACK PAGE

"With all the talk about the last-minute work, trying to get ready, (the organizers) didn't really make the other stuff that think make the Games fun," said Alex Brown, who greets visitors at Olympic Wednesday.

The parents of Australian swimmer Matt Welsh relaxed at the Rendezvous lounge before going to watch their son's race.

"There's nowhere else to go here," Tricia Welsh said. "We can't get into the athletes' village and he doesn't have the time to go to restaurants near the Acropolis. It's all so spread out. It seems most of the athletes just stay in their rooms when they're not training or competing."

Athens has many wonderful restaurants, but the pickings are slim near Olympic sites. The best at OAKA, believe it or not, is McDonald's, and this big plastic box of a joint is one star below its American counterparts.

In the middle of OAKA are rows of "cafes" selling soft drinks, water, beer, chips, ice cream and yogurt. In front of each row are more rows of red

Over half of tickets sold for Games

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Athens Olympic organizers said Tuesday that more than half of the available tickets to the Games have been sold, almost reaching their expectations.

Organizers have sold 3.1 million tickets out of a total of 5.3 million, comparable with the Games in Barcelona and Seoul, but far behind sales in Sydney and Atlanta.

Even though attendance has been disappointing thus far — venues at Monday's events were only about 55 percent full — officials said there are no plans for ticket discounts or giveaways.

Coca-Cola tables and chairs with umbrellas, several hundred of them weakly resembling European street-side cafes. This should be where people lounge in the early evening or linger after events, listening to the rock

music from loudspeakers. Instead the tables are mostly unused even at the busiest times.

Sparsely leafed trees, suffering in the sun from last-minute planting, contribute to the vacant look of the landscape.

Some thought, these soulless, fast-food areas, sitting on bare earth, could have been transformed into a marvelous plaza to bring fans and athletes together. But in the rush to get even the stadium finished, the details that give the Games texture were put off.

Sydney had Darling Harbor and the rocking scene around the Opera House and the Rocks, where fans and athletes mingled. Atlanta had Centennial Olympic Park, which pushed the borders of crass commercialism but brought the world together for parties day and night. Barcelona offered the charms of its Ramblas, just a stroll away from the center of the games for the original Dream Team and everyone else.

There's no "there" here in Athens. The Plaka on the edge of the Acropolis, spruced up though it is, is too far away for the athletes.

It's busy, but no busier than any other summer.

Except for swimming and men's basketball, where crowds have packed the arena and Greeks loved seeing the Americans lose to Puerto Rico, no big stories, home run heroes or compelling stories have yet galvanized the Games. Attendance has been low at most places, including the volleyball, widely popular in Sydney.

The "crowds" at gymnastics have been so sparse that the arena's background music can be heard in a hospital with cuts and bruises suffered when their motorcycle skidded on a road.

"We attended baseball and it was barren," said Australian John Mifflin, 23. "I joked to one of my mates that we must've come on the wrong week."

He said the Aussies have been "chasing the vibe" for days with no success.

Sponsors have their private parties. The yachts may be lively.

But for the average fan and the athletes, the Athens Games so far have been a multibillion-dollar yawn.

Steve Wiltstein is a national sports columnist. Write to him at: swiltstein@ap.org

SPORTS



Red Sox's Mientkiewicz takes on new assignment in victory over Blue Jays, Page 27



Britain's 127½-pound weightlifter Micheala Breeze attempts to lift 209 pounds in the snatch before empty sections of seats at the Nikaia Olympic Weightlifting Hall on Monday. Poor attendance at many events has been a recurring theme during the first few days of the Athens Games.

Sounds of silence

Athens Games generating little buzz on grounds, in seats

SOMETHING'S missing from the Athens Olympics — the intangible, critical buzz that makes the Summer Games special.

Tens of thousands of seats are empty every day. There's no grand gathering place for athletes and fans, no pulsating heart of the sprawling scene, and less sheer fun than at any Olympics in the last 20 years.

The main Olympic complex, known as OAKA, is an architectural triumph and a spiritual wasteland, lacking crowds and excitement.

The blazing sun offers heat; the emptiness somehow makes it cold.

Stroll a broad walkway in OAKA beneath beautiful white steel arches, bordered by blue reflecting pools and white marble, and you look out on a soothing vista of hills in the distance. In the lowering sun Monday, with

Steve Wiltstein



events.

Greek residents have shown their indifference to the Games by staying away in droves. Tourism is down because of worries about terrorism. In truth, though, those who are here are not walking around consumed by fear. It's peaceful, secure and dull.

Only one spot in OAKA offers any entertainment — the Olympic Rendezvous, sponsored by Samsung. Greek TV celebrity Tonia Fouseki, wearing a Mike

Greek music playing on loudspeakers, it's lovely. Yet look around and there aren't many people there to enjoy it, though it's the peak time for fans to be showing up before the night

headset, does her best to draw fans each day, beckoning them to enjoy "amazing shows, magicians, live music, dancers." At 5:30 p.m., 12 fans lay on their backs on the wooden pavilion in front of the stage while dancers performed to John Lennon's "Imagine."

Olympic Rendezvous draws up to 500 fans at times during peak hours, just before and after night events. But with no beer, wine or food in the area, there's nothing to hold the crowds.

"Considering the circumstances, people are having some fun," event coordinator Christiana Kouzlikis said. "People are dancing and singing, making the best of it. This is the only place they can do that."

OAKA and other Olympic sites could have used more places like the Olympic Rendezvous, which has a lounge upstairs for athletes and their families.

SEE SILENCE ON PAGE 31

Medal count

Leaders after 42 medal events in the 2004 Olympics on Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Country	G	S	B	Total
China	10	4	2	16
Australia	6	2	5	13
United States	3	5	5	13
Russia	2	5	2	9
Japan	6	1	1	8
France	2	2	3	7
Italy	2	2	1	5
Netherlands	0	2	3	5
Germany	1	2	1	4
South Korea	1	1	2	4
Cuba	0	0	4	4

■ Zagunis, Jacobson become first U.S. women to win fencing medals, Page 31

■ U.S. men's gymnastics team ends 20-year drought with team silver, Page 30



Cardinals' Pujols among three big hitters in NL on Monday

Page 27



Players' union files grievance against Cowboys on behalf of cut QB Carter

Page 26



Ravens LB Lewis, Eagles WR Owens ready to take war of words to field

Page 25